

**47th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Panel discussion on the human rights of older persons in the context of climate change**

**Statement by Slovenia**

*Geneva, 30 June 2021*

Chair,

Both, climate change and ageing societies represent two of the most challenging global realities of our lifetimes.

Ageism in different forms of stereotypes and discrimination often exclude older people from policies and programs that address the negative effects of climate change. Many older people have experience, knowledge and skills that can make a positive contribution to climate action. Therefore, we should not overlook an approach that involves all generations.

Slovenia strongly believes in the need to include older persons in all decision-making processes, including in the field of climate change. That is also the reason why our government decided to invite our longtime climate negotiator to return to the Slovenian EU presidency project, as a consultant on the international climate negotiations. We are supporting also other public administration officers who decide to remain active after fulfilling their conditions for retirement.

Slovenia is very well aware of how ageing society increases country's vulnerability to the effects of climate change. In Slovenia, almost half of people over the age of 65 live in rural areas. Different weather conditions may make it more difficult for this population to cover their basic living needs, especially in more exposed areas. State interventions and the inclusion of all possible ways of organized assistance is extremely important.

Chair, dear panellists,

Slovenia's engagement on these topics doesn't end with our administration's policies at home but goes far beyond it. We believe we should move in the next stage in our deliberations on the possible international legal instrument on the human rights of older persons. We have spent over a decade discussing whether it was needed and UN reports overwhelmingly indicate it is.

Secondly, my country is a strong supporter of the proclamation of the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. We see the proclamation of this right as a further contribution of the international community, which should be stepping up its efforts in tackling climate change, especially in light of the upcoming COP26.

Thank you.