

**Statement by Slovenia**

**at the**

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

**Interactive Dialogue with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

***Geneva, 21 June 2021***

Madame President,

Madame High Commissioner,

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement and would like to deliver the following remarks in its national capacity.

We welcome your update on the recent developments in human rights situations around the globe. We call on all countries concerned to collaborate with the Office of the High Commissioner, including by allowing full and unfeathered access to its territories.

Slovenia remains committed to the Convention on Racial Discrimination. Work on elimination of racial discrimination should be part of our ongoing efforts to fight all forms of discrimination. Our delegation would therefore welcome your continuous engagement on this issue.

We would like to use this opportunity to thank you and your Office for all your work on sensitizing member states on the importance of developing a human rights response to COVID-19 and its recovery. Human rights should be guiding us in building back better. Slovenia has put human-rights based approach to the pandemic at the forefront of our actions. At the same time the pre-existing challenges persist and it is our task to strengthen our efforts to protect persons in vulnerable situations.

Allow us to mention two major steps that Slovenia has taken in this direction recently. Last month, the right to use and development of the Slovenian sign language, as well as the Hungarian and Italian sign languages in areas with official language minority communities have been enshrined in the Slovenian constitution. Furthermore, recent amendments to the Penal Code have redefined sexual consent in line with the concept that »only yes means yes«.

Madame High Commissioner,

Slovenia remains a strong supporter of the work you of your Office do here in Geneva and on the grounds.

Thank you.