

Statement by Slovenia

at the

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

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Belarus**

*Geneva, 5 July 2021*

Excellencies,

# Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement. We would like to make additional remarks in our national capacity. Slovenia commends the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus for her report.

We are deeply concerned by human rights violations and continued deterioration of the situation in Belarus. The brutal crackdown of peaceful demonstrators is followed by systematic repression of civil society, human rights defenders, independent media, university professors and students and other professionals and even representatives of national minorities.

We urge the authorities to release all political prisoners and express our grave concern over prison conditions, where detainees are subject to torture and other forms of ill-treatment. It is unacceptable that defending democracy and fundamental freedoms are a cause for political persecution and state repression in Belarus.

We strongly condemn the forced landing of a Ryanair flight in Minsk and the unlawful detention of Raman Pratasevich and Sofia Sapega. This act was another attempt of the regime to silence all opposition voices.

Given the dire human rights situation in Belarus, and the ongoing importance of the Special Rapporteur’s mandate, Slovenia supports and recommends the renewal of her mandate. We also continue to call on Belarus to implement the rapporteur’s recommendations and grant her unrestricted access to Belarus.

Thank you.