

**Statement by Slovenia**

**at the**

**48th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Item 2: General Debate on High Commissioner's oral update**

*Geneva, 14 September 2021*

Madame President,

Madame High Commissioner,

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

We welcome your update, which again so clearly emphasized the linkage between environment and enjoyment of human rights. It is a cross-cutting issue, which concerns countries around the globe in their strivings to achieve a life of dignity, security and peace for all.

In support of this goal, Slovenia, as a member of the Core Group on human rights and the environment, will engage wholeheartedly in negotiations on the resolution on the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and will support all further activities within the UN framework until the right is fully recognized.

There are many individuals and groups risking their lives by vocally advocating against further and irreversible environmental degradation. Please allow me to mention in this regard environmental human rights defenders, whose sacrifice with more than 200 deaths in 2020 in the course of fighting against climate change has been shockingly high.

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.