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Statement by Slovenia

at the

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

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation**

*Geneva, 15 September 2021*

Mr Special Rapporteur,

We are facing a global water crisis due to the unsustainable management of the freshwater ecosystems and the effects of climate change. Millions of kilometers of river ecosystems have been irreversibly affected. Conserving and restoring aquatic ecosystems and assuring access to water, sanitation and hygiene for all is essential for human development.

The content of the human rights to water and sanitation and their normative projection are clear. Slovenia strongly believes there is still a long way to go in terms of their effective implementation. We need a cross-sectoral and inclusive water-resources management.

Slovenia supports the proclamation of the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The proclamation is a further contribution of the international community, which should be stepping up its efforts in tackling environmental emergencies, such as water crisis.

We acknowledge that everyone, everywhere, has the right to live in a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, a public good that is essential for life, leaving no one behind.

Thank you.