

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

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

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

Geneva, 8 March 2022

Excellencies, Madam High Commissioner,

We align ourselves with the EU statement, Slovenia condemns in the strongest terms Russia’s unprecedented unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine. We are appalled by the reports of numerous civilian casualties. We are thankful to the OHCHR and the UN system as such, for their ongoing efforts to protect human lives. People in Ukraine, as in any other country in the world, deserve to live in peace and security, where their human rights are respected and protected.

As we enter the third year of pandemic, we believe we should do more in mitigation of its impacts, including by designing gender and age responsive policies.

Madam High Commissioner,

we strongly support the independence and integrity of your Office: We need to make sure that the UN Human Rights pillar remains in the position to address the existing and future human rights crises.

We particularly appreciate your strengthened advocacy efforts to promote human rights of older persons, and your commitment to putting the universal human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment into practice.

Let me end, by informing on Slovenia's ratification of the Convention on Enforced Disappearances: This can serve as a proof that the work in the field of human rights is an ongoing endeavour. We are looking forward to working jointly with the international community in making this world a better place also in the future.