

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**49th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues**

Geneva, 22 March 2022

Mr Special Rapporteur,

Slovenia would like to thank you for your report, which addresses the issue of conflict prevention and the protection of the human rights of minorities.

We would like to reaffirm our long-standing commitment to the advancement of the rights of minorities. We pursue this goal on a national, regional, and international level. Slovenia remains fully committed to the promotion and protection of minorities' rights as a member of the UN Human Rights Council's core group on minorities alongside Austria and Mexico.

We recognize the problem's complexity, which necessitates a multi-layered strategy incorporating institutional attention to minorities in the context of conflict prevention.

We strongly believe that global and regional early warning and prevention mechanisms are needed to address the root causes of violent conflicts involving minorities. Hate speech, misconceptions, and incitement to violence based on national, ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural differences should be addressed as soon as conflict-warning indicators appear.

We further believe that states should design and implement normative frameworks that recognize, support, and promote minority languages by raising awareness of the benefits of mother tongue education as well as the benefits of multilingualism.

In conclusion, I would like to ask you to elaborate a bit more on your further work plan as the SR on minority issues.

Thank you.