

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

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

**Interactive dialogue with Special Representative of the**

**UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict**

Geneva, 15 March 2022

Excellencies,

We would like to thank the Special Representative for her report and presentation today. Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement and would like to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

Madame Special Representative,

your contribution to development of policies and systems protecting children, engagement, advocacy and technical support to parties to conflict is of crucial importance.

Slovenia is gravely concerned by the findings of your report. It emphasizes the unprecedented challenges for the protection of children living in conflict zones, and marks sustained occurrence of grave violations against children, killing and maiming of children, recruitment of children, and denial of humanitarian access.

It is of key importance to ensure the unabated respect for international humanitarian and human rights law by all parties to conflicts, while upkeeping accountability and fighting impunity. Children in Ukraine, currently the biggest victims of the war, deserve to live in peace and security, where their human rights are respected and protected.

Madame Special Representative,

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the children and armed conflict mandate a number of ongoing and emerging challenges persist.

As a strong advocate of child protection, Slovenia strives to lessen the burden of children affected by conflicts on the ground. We support numerous programmes of reintegration, comprehensive rehabilitation health-care and psychosocial services for children from Ukraine, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen. In addition, projects aimed to empower children as actors for peace were conducted in more than 20 countries worldwide.

Thank you.