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Statement by Slovenia

at the

**Interactive Dialogue with High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**on the situation of human rights in Ukraine**

*Geneva, 29 March 2022*

Mr President,

we thank the High Commissioner for her presentation and thank her Office and the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine for their invaluable work and reporting. We align ourselves with the EU statement.

As we speak, the number of civilian casualties in Ukraine continues to grow, civilians, including children, persons with disabilities and older persons, are trapped in areas of active hostilities. They are subject to extreme suffering and trauma. Homes are being destroyed in a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and disregard for the UN Charter. We are appalled by the reports of attacks on schools, orphanages, hospitals and other civilian infrastructure.

Slovenia condemns in the strongest possible terms the unprovoked aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The hostilities must cease immediately. We urge Russia to cease its military actions, withdraw all its forces and fully respect Ukraine’s territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders. Full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access as well as protection and the safe passage for civilians must be ensured.

We urge Russia to fully abide by its obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law as stated in the UNGA Resolution on the Humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine. We also reiterate our call on Belarus to stop enabling the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Those responsible for the violations must be held accountable for their actions.

Slovenia is committed to give its share in our joint efforts to protect and assist all refugees from Ukraine fleeing the war, including through international protection, emergency care, education and health services. We deem it is of utmost importance to particularly protect women and girls from various forms of sexual violence including trafficking and exploitation.

We stand with Ukraine and its people. Thank you.