



Statement by  
**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the  
**40<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council**

**Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context**

Geneva, 4 March 2019

---

Thank you, Mr President.

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement. We thank Special Rapporteurs for their reports and presentations today.

Mr Boyd,

As this is the first time you address the Council in your capacity, we would like to warmly welcome you and congratulate you on your appointment. We look forward to working closely with you in the coming years.

In your report you state that more than 90 % of the world's population lives in regions that exceed WHO guidelines for healthy ambient air quality and that air pollution contribute to 7 millions premature deaths annually, including the deaths of approximately 600.000 children. While you present some good practices, there is a number of concerning examples and trends that you outline.

In your report you also state that at least 155 States are legally obliged, through treaties, constitutions and legislation, to respect, protect and fulfil the right to a healthy environment. Could you elaborate what benefits would the possible global recognition of the right to a healthy and sustainable environment bring for the improvement of the worrying world's air pollution situation?

Supporting the breaking the silos approach, we highly appreciate your cooperation with other UN entities, including the WHO on the field of air pollution, and other issues. Finally, we would like to welcome the topic of the resolution on human rights defenders, addressing environmental human rights defenders.

I thank you.