



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
43rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
Item 2: General Debate on High Commissioner's oral update

Geneva, 27 February 2020

Madam President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity:

At the outset Slovenia would like to join Madam High Commissioner in extending our respect to the medical teams around the world who are tackling the coronavirus, COVID-19. Health crisis of such dimensions is not a mere test of our societies' resilience, but also an opportunity for international community's deepened collaboration, including by applying a human rights based approach while tackling this crisis.

The human rights challenges around the world that you have outlined in your speech earlier today have a common denominator: roll back of human rights. We would like to use this opportunity to stress that no one should feel empowered by such attempts. The human rights standards are clear and they are here to stay.

In conclusion, let me turn to an important priority for my government: the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. In the next months we intend to conduct extensive consultations on this matter together with other member states. We feel that it is important that this Council builds on the important contributions to the enjoyment of the right to a healthy environment such as the Green New Deal by the EU, Measurable Action for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia by ASEAN, increased cooperation between OPEC and UNFCCC and many other regional initiatives, and deliver something that can be felt for generations to come.