



Statement by Slovenia  
at the  
**45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**General Debate – item 2**

*Geneva, 15 September 2020*

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Madam President,

Madam High Commissioner,

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement.

We welcome your update on the global situation of human rights. As you have pointed out, COVID-19 has further exacerbated the existing inequalities and challenges. In July we outlined a number of concrete and targeted measures Slovenia put in place as part of its human rights based approach to COVID-19, along with its universal health coverage. We can assure you that while COVID-19 might be at the forefront of our work, we do not rest when it comes to other challenges.

We are aware of the challenges posed by the demographic changes in Slovenia and have therefore decided to establish a special demographic fund to address different aspects of this phenomenon. Furthermore, last month we concluded a procedure of public debate on the definition of rape in the Criminal Code in order to base it on the premise that "every no is a no and only yes is a yes". COVID-19 should not let us turn a blind eye on questions we have to address to continue moving forward as societies.

We can only tackle COVID-19 as well as other global issues hand in hand with our regional and global partners. We appreciate the Office's integration of the Secretary General's Call to Action in its work and support the mainstreaming of COVID-19 response across the many areas of your work. In order to be able to continue doing that, we would like to once again recall the EU's statement of last week in which we emphasized the need for all UN member states to respect their financial commitments.

Thank you.