



**34th Session of the Human Rights Council
High-Level Panel Discussion: Human Rights Situation in the Syrian Arab
Republic**

Statement by the Republic of Slovenia

Geneva, 14 March 2017

Mr. President,

We are deeply disturbed by reports of the continuing grave deterioration of the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. We condemn in the strongest terms the indiscriminate and deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure and the use of chemical weapons, and call for a sustained nationwide ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian access across Syria. We welcome the UN Security Council's unified support for Resolution 2336.

While recalling that the primary responsibility to protect the Syrian population lies with the Syrian authorities, we call upon all parties to immediately desist from any further attacks, violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law, including against children and persons with disabilities, as well as violations based on gender, age, ethnicity and religion.

We reiterate the importance of the work of the Commission of Inquiry and fully support an extension of its mandate. We call upon the Syrian authorities to cooperate fully with the Commission by granting it unhindered access throughout the Syrian Arab Republic. Furthermore, we welcome the establishment of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism and its complementary role in ensuring accountability for the most serious crimes under international law.

In conclusion, Slovenia fully upholds the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria to facilitate an inclusive and Syrian-led peace process. In order to lay the groundwork for a sustainable political solution, full and meaningful participation of women in this process is of vital importance.

Thank you.