



**Statement by Mr Klemen Ponikvar, First Secretary,
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to United Nations Office in Geneva, at**

*the briefing to the States Members of the Council and observers on the findings of
OHCHR's periodic report on the situation of human rights in Ukraine, 12 December 2016*

- Slovenia aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the EU.
- We are grateful for the 3 month update and would like to use this opportunity to once again express our full support to the important work of the Mission.
- We remain concerned over the reports of human rights violations mentioned in the report.
- With regards to the human rights situation in the area of conflict, Slovenia would like to underline the importance of implementation of the Minsk Agreements.
- Slovenia calls once again for a full, free and unrestricted access to international human rights actors to the whole territory of Ukraine, including Crimea and Sevastopol.
- As regards to the protection of national minorities, we stress the importance of a comprehensive state policy towards national minorities and encourage for a better coordination between various governmental bodies.
- It is helpful that the protection of minorities is an integral part of the Human Rights Action Plan however it requires a human rights-based approach at all levels of government.
- Slovenia appreciates the important steps already taken by Ukraine in areas of reforms and now underscores the need for implementation notably in the field of justice.
- Slovenia highlights the significant EU support to the reform process in Ukraine, including the various financial assistance programmes in support to the rule of law.
- I thank you.