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| **Contribution of the Republic of Slovenia**  **to the Questionnaire on the issue of the 5th phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education**  **Human' Rights Council resolution 51/2 on the World Programme for Human Rights Education** |

31 May 2023

The World Programme for Human Rights Education has been instrumental in promoting human rights education and training globally, since its proclamation by the General Assembly in 2004. Slovenia welcomes the continued efforts for the World Programme for Human Rights Education by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Slovenia takes this opportunity to commend the efforts of the OHCHR and other stakeholders in implementing this program and addressing important themes in previous phases of the programme.

Human rights education, as part of the quality formal and informal education as well as life long learning, is essential for building inclusive and peaceful societies as well as strengthening sustainable development globally. Slovenia, as the a member of the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training and a penholder of the core group of the UN Human Rights Council on the World Programme for Human Rights Education, therefore underlines the need for sustained work on human rights education at all levels. The continuous implementation of the Human Rights Council resolutions, including A/HRC/51/2 is of key importance in this regard.

**Slovenia's suggestions for target sectors/benefeciaries:** Building on the achievements, as well as challenges identified in the 4th phase of the World Programme, Slovenia sees the need to continue targeting the youth with a particular emphasis on those belonging to marginalised groups and/or living in challenging contexts, including in crisis, conflict and post-conflict settings.

Ensuring access to quality human rights education for all young people, especially girls and young women, is a predisposition for the creation of peaceful societies that are committed to justice and equality and for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Formal and informal education at all levels is key in promoting and protecting human rights worldwide. Young women and girls continue facing gender-based discrimination and other human rights violations. Knowledge of the principles of equality, non-discrimination and specific girls- and women-related human rights acquired by young people can significantly contribute to the prevention of violations and abuse of these rights, collectively or individually. Therefore, Slovenia appeals for the continuation of human rights education with youth as the focus group and with content focus on the rights of girls and women. The uptake of this proposal will contribute to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda, notably directly to Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, 5 as well as indirectly to Sustainable Development Goals 1,2,8,10,11 and 16.

In addition, supporting service provides, such as health care personnel, educators and humanitarian actors should be targeted.

**Slovenia’s suggestions for focus areas or thematic human rights issues:** Slovenia deems it highly important to continue the thematic focus of the fourth phase of the programme on youth with a special emphasis on the human rights education related to women's and girls' rights. Notably on rights related to girls' and women's physical and psychological integrity and dignity, including full enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), access to comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), and elimination of sexual and gender-based violence, including harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage, rape and other forms of sexual violence. Girls and boys, young women and men also need to be educated on other harmful gender-based practices that violate girls' and women's human rights such as polygamy, virginity testing, corporal punishment, crimes committed in the name of so-called “honour” and dowry-related violence, forced pregnancies, forced abortion or forced sterilisation.