

Statement by the Republic of Slovenia at the

43rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on her report on Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

Geneva, 26 February 2020

Madam President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement of the EU and would like to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

We would like to thank the High Commissioner for the report presented today. The situation in Gaza and in the West Bank in 2019 remained violent with more than 100 Palestinians and 11 Israelis killed and several persons injured on both sides. Most of the killings and injuries occurred by unjustified excessive use of force, particularly by the Israeli side. There is still lack of any significant progress in the investigation of and prosecution for alleged violations.

Slovenia calls again for full respect of international law, international human rights and humanitarian law. The possible violations should be thoroughly investigated and prosecuted. This could be carried out most effectively through an independent, international investigation to clarify what happened during protests.

We are deeply concerned over escalation of violence, particularly against children, health workers, journalists and persons with disabilities. Especially worrisome is deprivation of essential goods and services and its effect on the already crippling health sector in Gaza. Slovenia remains concerned about the overall humanitarian situation in Gaza, as the blockade continues.

We would be interested to hear your views on ways for the international community to support more effectively the health-care system in Gaza in order to ensure the necessary treatment for those injured, especially those in need of rehabilitation services.

Thank you.