



**Statement by Slovenia at the
16th Session of the United Nations Forum on Minority Issues**
*Minorities and cohesive societies: equality, social inclusion and socio-economic
participation*

Geneva, 30 November 2023

Thank you Mr. Special rapporteur, co-chairs, dear participants,

- It is a great pleasure to participate at this year's, already 16th Forum on Minority issues. Let me at the outset congratulate Mr. Levrat for his appointment as a special rapporteur for minority issues. I also extend warm welcome to both co-chairs of the Forum.
- Slovenia has a long-standing commitment to the advancement of the rights of minorities and keeps supporting the promotion and full implementation of all international treaties and conventions, which protect human rights and rights of ethnic and national minorities. Here in Geneva Slovenia is also a member of a core group on human rights of persons belonging to minorities together with Austria and Mexico, and actively participates in topics of all-round interest for minorities.
- Slovenia is well aware of the challenges we face in the process of integrating minorities and the obstacles to the social and economic participation of persons belonging to minorities. In the efforts to achieve more inclusive societies, Slovenia acts through legal and structural approaches, addressing the systemic and structural challenges that minority groups may face.

- Slovenian Constitution guarantees a significant degree of autonomy and political representation to Italian and Hungarian national communities and Roma.
- Members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities are represented at the municipal level, and in the National Assembly, elected by minority voters. They enjoy the right to education in their own language and the right to use the minority language in administrative and judicial proceedings.
- Roma have the right to elect their representative in the municipality or city council in municipalities, where Roma are traditionally settled. The Roma Community Council represents the interests of the Roma community in Slovenia in relation to state bodies. Slovenia currently implements its third National Program of Measures for Roma for the period 2021-2030 including measures on education, employment, social care, health, housing and fight against antigypsism and discrimination.
- On global level, we believe that engagement on minority issues has to increase collaborative efforts among nations, organizations, and individuals to address the rights, representation, and well-being of minority groups worldwide. We hope this forum can be one of those spaces to foster open dialogue, not just among states but all the different stakeholders.

I thank you.