

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**45th Session of the UPR Working Group - Review of Belize**

*Geneva, 29 January 2023*

Mr President,

Slovenia thanks the delegation of Belize for the presentation today and its commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendation:

* to continue and fortify its efforts to prevent and combat violence against women and girls, including through legal and policy reforms as well as institutional strengthening.

While welcoming the efforts of Belize to address gender-based violence, we note with concern the reported persistence of the phenomenon, including domestic violence, rape and increasing cases of femicide.

To this end, we call upon the government of Belize to effectively implement the National Gender-based Violence Plan of Action, investigate all cases of violence against women and girls, strengthen measures to encourage and facilitate victims’ access to justice and means of protection, improve research and data-collection methods and systems as well as to cooperate with women-led networks and civil society organizations.

Thank you.