

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**41st Session of the UPR Working Group – Ecuador**

*Geneva, 7 November 2022*

Mr President,

Slovenia wishes to commend the delegation of Ecuador for the national report, its presentation today and the commitment to the UPR process.

While Slovenia attaches great importance to the situation of older persons, we took note in your national report on the steps taken to promote and protect the rights of older persons, among others the National Council for Intergenerational Equality, the 2021–2025 National Agenda for Intergenerational Equality, assistance to and care to older persons in situation of poverty, awareness-raising campaigns, social housing etc.

While we took note of numerus measures and programmes in place to combat violence against women, the issue of femicide that has been classified as an offence in 2021, is still wide spread in the country. We would like to call on Ecuador to strengthen its efforts to adopt measures to address femicide and to reduce the rise of cases of femicide.

We wish to **recommend** to Ecuador:

* To protect human rights defenders and to ensure effective investigations into threats and attacks against human rights defenders.
* To ensure the right to free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples on policies, projects and legislation that may affect them.

Thank you.