

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**42nd Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of the Republic of Korea**

*Geneva, 26 January 2023*

Excellencies,

allow me to express the appreciation of Slovenia for the Republic of Korea's presentation and engagement with the UPR mechanism.

Slovenia is delighted to learn about positive steps towards recognition and implementation of the right of conscientious objection to military service, as we recommended in the first cycle.

Taking into account the rapid demographic changes and the ageing population, Slovenia stresses the importance of cooperation and solidarity between and within all generations and comprehensive and coherent strategies for the realization of all human rights by older persons.

Slovenia notes with concern significantly high poverty rates among older persons in the Republic of Korea, notably among older women. Increasing numbers of reported elder abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic are also a matter of concern.

Slovenia would like to **recommend** the Republic of Korea to:

* devote sufficient funding to protect human rights of older persons, ensure equal access to services and prevent poverty in old age by, including but not limited to, raising the income replacement rate of the national pension to the OECD average;
* devise a comprehensive strategy for the protection of older persons from violence and all forms of abuse, in order to effectively prevent and address elder abuse;
* adopt a housing policy that takes into account the special needs of older persons to enable them to live independently, while reducing informal settlements and households that do not reach minimum housing standards.

Thank you.