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**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other
elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council**

Note verbale dated 1 May 2025 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the candidature of the Republic of Slovenia to the Human Rights Council for the term 2026–2028, at the elections to be held in October 2025 in New York.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations has the further honour to transmit herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments reaffirming that the promotion and protection of human rights are a priority of the foreign policy of the Republic of Slovenia.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations would be grateful to the President of the General Assembly if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Assembly, under agenda item 116 (c) of the preliminary list.

* [A/80/50](#).



Annex to the note verbale dated 1 May 2025 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of the Republic of Slovenia to the Human Rights Council, 2026–2028

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/251](#)

I. Introduction

1. Slovenia stands for strong and effective multilateralism, as demonstrated by its engagement in the United Nations and other international organizations. It is committed to the respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, both at home and in the international community. It reaffirms its commitment to the principles and obligations set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was demonstrated on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

2. Slovenia addresses human rights in a comprehensive manner and considers them, along with peace and security and development, as one of the three pillars of the United Nations. It regards civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as equal. Slovenia closely follows the emergence of new challenges, including digital technology and artificial intelligence, and strives for the advancement of human rights. It firmly advocates that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. It is committed to upholding the human rights of all people, regardless of their personal circumstances.

3. Slovenia is Party to most international human rights instruments and regularly fulfils its obligations, including by reporting to treaty bodies. Its international activities promote the further development of international human rights standards.

4. Slovenia has been actively engaged in the work of the Human Rights Council since its establishment. Its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights was confirmed by its work as a member of the Council in 2007–2010 and 2016–2018. In addition, the Permanent Representative of Slovenia served as President of the Council in 2018.

5. Slovenia fully supports the independence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the increase in its funding from the United Nations regular budget. It supports the strengthening of the treaty bodies, special mechanisms and special procedures of the Human Rights Council and has extended a standing invitation to the special procedures to visit Slovenia.

6. Slovenia is committed to the universal periodic review, fully cooperating in the review of human rights in Slovenia and implementing the accepted recommendations, and also participating in the review of all other countries.

7. In international forums, it advocates the important role of civil society in promoting human rights, the rule of law and the comprehensive development of societies. Therefore, Slovenia supports maintaining a safe and enabling environment for civil society.

8. Slovenia is committed to ensuring accountability for human rights violations, remedying the consequences of such violations and respecting the decisions of judicial or other competent authorities. In the fight against impunity for the most heinous crimes, Slovenia contributed significantly to the adoption of the Ljubljana-

The Hague Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes and Other International Crimes and supports the work of the International Criminal Court.

9. In cooperation with Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society, Slovenia strives to contribute to the promotion and protection of all human rights of all. Slovenia is therefore once again submitting its candidature for membership of the Human Rights Council for the term 2026–2028.

II. International pledges and commitments

10. As a member of the Human Rights Council, Slovenia will continue to work in a non-selective, objective and inclusive manner to promote respect for human rights for all. It will seek to ensure the effective response by the Council to human rights violations around the world while respecting the objectivity and transparency of its work. Slovenia will pay particular attention to the universality and impartiality of the mechanisms of the Council and strive for regular dialogue with States, NGOs and civil society. It will encourage the active and meaningful engagement of NGOs, civil society and human rights defenders with the Council. Furthermore, it will continue to actively support the objective, independent and impartial role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

11. As a member of the Human Rights Council, Slovenia will continue to emphasize that the three pillars of the United Nations system (peace and security, development and human rights) are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Slovenia is committed to keeping human rights at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a focus on ensuring inclusion and preventing discrimination and, in so doing, adhering to the principle of leaving no one behind.

12. As a member of the Human Rights Council, Slovenia will be particularly active in its traditional priority areas, such as human rights and the environment, gender equality and the rights of women and girls, children's rights, the rights of older persons, human rights education and minority rights.

13. Within the United Nations system and in other international organizations, Slovenia will continue to support efforts to combat all forms of discrimination. It will pay particular attention to gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the strengthening of the promotion and protection of their rights. It will work to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including violence in armed conflict and domestic violence. It will also support efforts to improve gender balance in leadership positions in the United Nations system. By 2030, Slovenia aims to allocate at least 85 per cent of its official development assistance to partner countries for activities and programmes that mainstream gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

14. Slovenia will continue to actively advocate the promotion of, and respect for, human rights in relation to the environment, in particular the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The adoption of the resolution on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment by the Human Rights Council in 2021 and the General Assembly in 2022 is an important step after years of effort by Slovenia to achieve the recognition of this human right at the global level. Now the focus should be on the global implementation of this right as a key element in addressing the triple planetary crisis while further normative steps are considered. Slovenia will continue to support the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change.

15. The protection and promotion of, and respect for, the rights of the child in all areas remains an important aspect of Slovenia's foreign policy, with a particular focus on the protection of children from violence and the protection of children affected by armed conflict. Slovenia co-chairs the Group of Friends of the Rights of the Child in Geneva and supports initiatives that contribute to the realization of children's rights. Slovenia will continue to promote the active participation of children in the annual debates on the rights of the child held during the sessions of the Human Rights Council.

16. In international human rights forums, Slovenia will work to strengthen the protection and promotion of the rights of older persons to ensure the participation of older persons in all areas of life and to combat ageism. Given the rapid ageing of the world's population and the fragmented system of international human rights protection for older persons, Slovenia will seek to adequately address the gaps and limitations in international human rights law with respect to the rights of older persons. It supports the work of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and co-chairs the Group of Friends of the Human Rights of Older Persons in Geneva.

17. Human rights education is essential for building and maintaining democratic, tolerant and sustainable societies and mutual respect. As a member of the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training, Slovenia will continue to contribute to the development of the World Programme for Human Rights Education and to work for the effective implementation of its fifth phase. Education empowers everyone, especially children and young people, which is why Slovenia supports projects to educate children about their rights, including the "Our Rights" project.

18. An essential element for Slovenia in its cooperation with neighbouring countries is the protection of minorities. Slovenia also works in international organizations to promote respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities throughout the world and will continue to promote their rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, in accordance with applicable international norms and standards.

III. National pledges and commitments

19. The protection of human rights is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, which stipulates that everyone shall be guaranteed equal human rights and fundamental freedoms, irrespective of national origin, race, sex, language, religion, political or other conviction, material standing, birth, education, social status, disability or any other personal circumstance.

20. Slovenia is actively seeking to ensure that everyone's human rights are fully respected, guaranteed and protected. It will continue to fulfil its international human rights obligations, to implement, strengthen and create equal opportunities for all and to combat all forms of discrimination.

21. The human rights situation in Slovenia will be examined under the universal periodic review in early 2025. Slovenia will continue its efforts to implement all accepted recommendations.

22. A safe and healthy environment is essential for the enjoyment of all other human rights. Slovenia's right to a healthy environment is enshrined in the Constitution and implemented through the Environmental Protection Act and its implementing regulations. Slovenia will actively work to preserve nature and ensure the quality of the environment, in line with the resolution on the National Environmental Action Programme 2020–2030. Slovenia is in the process of adopting the Climate Change Act, which will provide a comprehensive institutional framework for the

implementation of climate policies. While Slovenia pursues the objectives and implementation of climate change policies and measures by which it is bound at the international and European levels in an effective, timely and equitable manner, its goal is also to reduce the vulnerability, or increase the resilience, of Slovenia's natural and human systems to the current or expected impacts of climate change on the environment and society.

23. The 2002 Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act provides the basis for measures to improve the position of women and to create equal opportunities for women and men in various areas of public life. Long-term efforts have contributed to a significant increase in the representation of women in politics, especially after the 2022 presidential and parliamentary elections, when Slovenia elected its first female president and female speaker of the National Assembly and achieved the highest proportion of women among elected deputies, at 40 per cent. The measures set out in the resolution on the National Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2023–2030 and the resolution on the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2024–2029 will contribute to further progress in gender equality.

24. In Slovenia, children's rights are protected and promoted through a number of acts and programmes that are in line with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Slovenia will continue to promote respect for children's rights and the protection of children and their well-being by implementing measures such as the Programme for Children 2020–2025, the resolution on Family Policy 2018–2028, the Action Plan for Child Guarantee 2022–2030 and the resolution on the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2024–2029. Slovenia will continue to pay special attention to the participation of children in matters affecting them.

25. In order to actively involve older persons in all areas of life and to effectively promote the human rights of older persons, Slovenia has adopted the Active Ageing Strategy. Several initiatives and activities to protect and promote the human rights of older persons are under way, often in cooperation with civil society.

26. Slovenia has a solid constitutional and legislative framework for the protection of minority rights. It seeks to protect the rights of minorities, ethnic communities and groups through various legal and institutional measures, thereby giving effect to the principles of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

27. The Protection against Discrimination Act defines and prohibits discrimination, regardless of personal circumstances, as stipulated in the Constitution. Slovenia will continue to work on the protection of vulnerable groups from discrimination and to maintain a zero-tolerance approach to hate speech.

28. The Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia is the national human rights institution and has A status accreditation (fully compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles)). Slovenia will continue to support the autonomy and independence of the Ombudsman. It will also support the autonomy and independence of the Advocate of the Principle of Equality.