



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
40th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 7 – Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry

Geneva, 18 March 2019

Mr President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, and would like to make additional remarks in its national capacity.

We thank the Commission for its work and the report presented today. We wish to reiterate our position that an international, independent and transparent investigation of human rights violations is needed to shed light on what happened during the Palestinian protests in Gaza. We have called upon all parties concerned to cooperate with the Commission and therefore regret that the Commission was not able to obtain the requested cooperation and access.

We are deeply concerned about the escalation of violence and the increased number of fatalities and wounded related to the last year's protests in Gaza. The Commission's findings on the unlawful use of lethal force against demonstrators, particularly against children, health workers, journalists and persons with disabilities are especially disconcerting. Particularly worrisome are also the Commission's observations on the impact that inflicted injuries and deprivations of essential goods and services have on the already crippling health sector. Slovenia remains concerned about the humanitarian situation exacerbated by the continued Gaza blockade.

Slovenia calls for the full respect of international law, international human rights and humanitarian law and that accountability for human rights violations is guaranteed.

Working closely with Israeli and Palestinian authorities, Slovenia has been implementing capacity building programs for the rehabilitation and psychosocial well-being of children affected by the lack of quality health services. Attaching great importance to the access of safe drinking water, Slovenia also contributed a humanitarian donation (of EUR 500,000) for Gaza Central Desalination Plant.

We would be interested to hear your views on how can the international community provide support to the health-care system in Gaza in order to ensure the necessary treatment to those injured and affected. We would be also interested on how can the international community provide support to human rights to ensure that everyone lives in dignity in the OPT.

Thank you.