



Statement by Slovenia
at the
45th Session of the Human Rights Council
Urgent debate on the human rights situation in Belarus

Geneva, 18 September 2020

Madam President,

Slovenia aligns with the EU statement and is seriously concerned about the human rights situation in Belarus following the country's presidential elections, which were neither free nor fair. We are deeply concerned about the reports of the ongoing violence, excessive use of force by law enforcement, torture and ill-treatment, abductions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detentions, denial of the rights to peaceful assembly, to information and to freedom of opinion and expression taking place in Belarus.

In this regard, we support the High Commissioner's call for prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of human rights violations.

As a state party to core human rights instruments, Belarus has obligations to respect human rights. We are appalled by the intimidation, harassment and attacks on members of political opposition as well as human rights defenders, civil society representatives, journalists and other media workers and people seeking to peacefully exercise their civil and political rights. Belarussian authorities must engage in a genuine dialogue, carry out reforms and ensure accountability for the grave human rights violations.

We call on Belarus to fully cooperate with all human rights mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on Belarus, other special procedures and treaty bodies, as well as with numerous regional mechanisms of the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

Thank you.