



**Statement by HE Ambassador Vojislav Šuc,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to United Nations Office in
Geneva, at**

*the 26th special session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on Human Rights in
South Sudan , 14 December 2016*

Mr President,

First let me thank to the High Commissioner and the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan for their engagement and reporting on the situation in South Sudan. Slovenia welcomes the convening of this special session as a follow-up of their activities.

As a firm supporter of the responsibility to Protect concept we would like to highlight the importance of the preventive role of this Council and its mechanisms when addressing dire human rights situations around the world.

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement and the statement of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect and would like to make some additional comments in its national capacity.

Slovenia welcomes South Sudan's cooperation with the HRC Commission and other UN mechanisms. However, we remain deeply concerned by the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in the country. The crisis in South Sudan has profound effect on the broader region which already carries a heavy refugee burden.

Slovenia would like to join others in strongly condemning systematic and gross human rights violations and abuses, committed in many parts of the country and often with an ethnic motivation. Warnings of genocide are most worrying. We are particularly alarmed by the scale and appalling nature of gang rapes of women and girls used as weapon of war by all parties to the conflict and the recruitment and use of child soldiers. We also strongly condemn the attacks on schools, hospitals and humanitarian workers.

We would like to reiterate that the Transitional Government of National Unity bears the primary responsibility to protect the population of South Sudan.

It is therefore of outmost importance that the parties refrain from acts of violence or incitement to ethnic hatred and find a just and inclusive peaceful solution based on the 2015 Peace Agreement.

To this end we also consider that all perpetrators of human rights violation and abuses must be held accountable.

Thank you.