Mr. President

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Human Security Network, a cross-regional network composed of Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Panama, Switzerland, Thailand, South Africa as an observer and my own country, Slovenia.

Let me start by thanking the president of the General Assembly Mogens Lykketoft for convening this debate.

The Human Security Network rallies around the concept of human security which calls for a people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented response to the challenges for peace, security and development. The Human security approach strengthens the protection and empowerment of all people and all communities.

We believe that this approach is particularly helpful in addressing multiple, complex and interrelated threats and vulnerabilities that are increasingly transnational and require our collective action.

The Human Security perspective can help Governments in the design and implementation of policies and strategies against emerging threats beyond State and military security concerns. Its people-centered, context-specific and holistic approach provides opportunities to address the root causes of conflicts, promote social integration and harmony, human development, combat poverty and inequality and build more secure and sustainable environments based on the participation and engagement of all sectors of society.
Mr. President

Recent reviews at the United Nations on peacekeeping operations, the peacebuilding architecture and the implementation of the UNSC resolution 1325 have shown that peace and security, development and the respect for human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

The reviews demonstrated that silos of decision-making and action need to be broken down and replaced by a comprehensive approach which can effectively address emerging conflicts.

The 2030 Agenda also emphasizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and are based on respect for human rights, effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. The Agenda 2030 therefore provides a globally legitimized framework for states to reinforce their efforts in comprehensively tackling current challenges and promoting peace and security as well as sustainable development in cooperation with other stakeholders, especially civil society, private sector and regional organizations.

We call on the United Nations to translate this acknowledgement into real action and to continue to strengthen coherence in its programmes and activities. Equally, we, the Member States need to coordinate our efforts to promote progress on human rights protection and promotion.

A prevention-oriented approach that includes strong promotion and protection of human rights can address the underlying causes of threats that endanger prospects for peace, stability and development and cause human suffering.

More can and should be done to integrate the human rights dimension. In this regard, we would like to draw attention to the joint appeal to strengthen human rights as a tool for conflict prevention that was launched on 13th June in Geneva.

Besides mediation and crisis diplomacy, a particular focus should also be on strengthening institutions to ensure the rule of law, democratic transition and processes establishing lasting peace without leading to risk of the outbreaks of violence. Civilians must be protected at all times and human rights promoted and respected in order to achieve lasting peace, security and sustainable development.

We continue to believe that all individuals and communities are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential. We need to make sure that the pledge the international community made not even a year ago to leave no one behind is fully implemented. People who are vulnerable must be empowered, including children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees, migrants and IDPs and we need to work towards making lives of all people better and enable all of them to live in safety and with dignity.

Mr President,

Allow me to add few words in my national capacity. Slovenia also aligns itself with the EU statement to be delivered tomorrow.

As we celebrate several important anniversaries that jointly laid the basis for the current human rights framework, the challenges of today remind us of the relevance and importance of putting all human rights, comprehensively and indivisibly, up front.
While we are yet to celebrate the first anniversary of Agenda 2030, we are inspired by its ability to connect the three interrelated pillars of peace and security, development and human rights.

We hope this inspiration will transcend to other elements of our engagement in order to best place at the center what we set out to 10, 30 and 50 years ago.

Slovenia is committed to contribute to these efforts. We will pay special attention to gender equality and the rights of women, the protection of vulnerable people, including children, older persons and persons belonging to minorities, fight against all forms of discrimination and exclusion on any grounds, and advocating for human rights education as one of the most important tools for empowerment and prevention.

Slovenia will also continue highlighting the interlinkages between the environment and human rights in the context of sustainable development. With this in mind, we look forward to continue working constructively with all partners.

Thank you.