



REPUBLIC OF
SLOVENIA



HUMAN
RIGHTS
OMBUDSMAN

**Human Rights Council
Fifty-second session**

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Agenda 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Oral intervention

by Mr. Peter Svetina, Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia

(Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on environment)

Honourable Mr. President, Special Rapporteur, Your Excellences, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my honour to address this session. **I had a pleasure to meet Mr. David Boyd on his visit to Slovenia and would like to welcome his report. We call upon the Government and other responsible authorities to implement the given recommendations and to present a clear timeline in this respect.** We join the Special Rapporteur in advocating that the authorities should strive to further enacting and implementing strong, rights-based environmental laws, policies and programmes. The goal should be to leave no one behind, as emphasized in the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We fully share the observation of the Special Rapporteur that **implementation of laws and policies is an area where Slovenia faces major challenges.** In our written statement, submitted under this agenda item, we are pointing out several issues where our institution has been active for years; however, there is still a lot to be done in implementing our recommendations. One of our main critics is that **the conduct of the drafters of regulations** in the field of the environment and spatial planning **has been all too often inconsistent with the right of the public to participate in the adoption of regulations.**

For years, we are also calling upon the Authorities to adopt regulations in order to give meaning to the new Constitutional right – the rights to water, adopted in 2016. We also call upon Slovenia to ratify **the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.** For around 10 years, we have been making calls and recommendations that **the Government should adopt urgent measures to provide the access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, connections to the electricity and to regularize all Roma Settlements.** Another equally important issue is **the lack of activities in the field of the rehabilitation of several degraded areas in Slovenia.** Last but not least, **we believe there is a need to address the climate emergency in an urgent manner.**

To conclude, despite a general low rate of implementation of our recommendations in the field of environment, I can ensure you that we will also monitor the implementation of the recommendations given in this report. **I hope and I believe that through dialogue of various actors, the rights' based approach to environmental issues is not only possible, but is the only way, which is sustainable and can bring positive results.**

Thank you for your attention.