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**SUBJECT: Report on best practises and lessons learned on how protection and promotion of human rights contribute to preventing and countering violent extremism (resolution 30/15 of the Human Rights Council) – REPORT BY SLOVENIA**

## 1. General

When responding to terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation, our actions must be in line with the very same values we strive to protect. We must also address conditions conducive to and root causes of the spread of radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism.

Slovenia has been a staunch supporter and advocate of **preventive diplomacy**. We advocate for conflict prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts. In our view, prevention needs to be a matter of international concern and should begin at home. We perceive mediation as a major vehicle for resolving contemporary conflicts. When dealing with these issues, we have to be aware that each conflict is particular and requires a particular response, which may also involve the choice of different types of mediation. Therefore, we have to learn from past experience and share best practices. On 11 March 2014, Slovenia organised (the third) Seminar on Mediation in the Mediterranean entitled Promoting a Culture of Mediation and Prevention in the Mediterranean.

Promotion of intercultural dialogue is one of the priorities of the Slovenian government. We support the initiatives such as the **UN Alliance of Civilizations** that promote values of understanding and respect between civilisations, cultures, religions and beliefs on the basis of respect for human rights of all individuals, mutual respect and understanding. We believe that this initiative with its four pillars of activities (youth, education, media and migration) is paramount to dealing with the current challenges (attacks, violence and killings based on religion, beliefs or ethnic affiliation).

Slovenia believes that threats to **human security**, as they develop and evolve, become more and more interconnected and interrelated. Human security entails

protection of well-being of individuals and communities as well as their freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom to live in dignity. Slovenia is a member of the Human Security Network and actively promotes a comprehensive people-centred approach to security and human development.

As a strong supporter of the UN concept **Responsibility to Protect**, Slovenia has organised two regional conferences on R2P to raise awareness of the need to enhance the efforts for protecting populations from mass atrocities. The first ever regional conference of national Focal Points for R2P was hosted by Slovenia in April 2013, followed by an international conference Rights for Peace: Challenges and Opportunities in April 2015. Slovenia would like to reaffirm its ten-year-long strong support for the R2P concept and its implementation, stressing that prevention is key. In the effort to prevent atrocities, all kinds of preventive tools can be combined: political, diplomatic, humanitarian, economic and legal, both in cooperative and coercive ways.

Human rights education is vital for establishing and maintaining a democratic, tolerant and sustainable society promoting human values and mutual respect. At the international level, Slovenia is among the countries actively engaging in human rights education. Since 2009, Slovenia has been a member of the **Platform for Human Rights Education and Training**, which was the leading factor in drafting the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, a document promoting the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

## 2. Projects

Slovenia is especially active in the region of the Western Balkans, and our efforts were also recognised through the adoption of European Council conclusions on **the Integrative and Complementary Approach to Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism in the region (WBCTi)**. The initiative also provided the basis for drafting the WBCTi Integrative Plan of Action 2015–2017. It includes 62 activities involving numerous international partners, for which funding has been secured. On Slovenia's proposal, the initiative is being examined as a possible model for developing regional cooperation in the MENA region.

Following the example of the EU-wide **Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN)**, a national RAN expert network was established in January 2015, bringing together – along strategic and systemic lines – experts from the public, private, non-governmental and civil sector as well as from science. In addition to cooperating on systemic and strategic matters within the Interdepartmental Working Group for Supranational Threats established to inform the National Security Council, a special coordination group has been established to guarantee concerted operation pursuant to a three-party cooperation agreement between the Slovene Intelligence and Security Agency, Intelligence and Security Service, and the Police.

Based on the conclusions of the Informal Meeting of Interior Ministers of the Brdo Process held in June 2014, Slovenia has successfully submitted a project entitled '**FIRST LINE Practitioners Dealing with Radicalisation Issues – Awareness Raising and Encouraging Capacity Building in the Western Balkan Region**', which was launched in January 2016. The project also supports counter-terrorism activities within the network of Police experts of the Integrative and Complementary Approach to Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism (CTI) initiative. The aim is to improve the early exchange of intelligence at the international level, introduce unified international standards for the investigation and prosecution of the criminal offence of terrorism, and guarantee secure and lawful exchange of personal data. First Line project is one the most important components of the EU WBCTi Initiative.

Specific project objectives:

- enhance capability for recognising main threats and aspects which promote radicalisation;
- assist in better understanding of international/EU best practices and policies dealing with radicalisation and recruitment;
- raise awareness at the strategic and systemic levels, thus enabling the relevant stakeholders to use the measures for identifying the triggering factors of radicalisation;
- support countries to be able to identify their own potential, competent stakeholders and their role;
- transfer best practices developed with an array of approaches, lessons learned and practices when they are appropriate for targeted countries,
- enable regular exchange of information via the SIENA network (i.e. Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application) and the exchange of best practices, modi operandi in operational best practices via the CTI network.

Human rights education is a lifelong and systematic process, and includes formal, informal or non-formal forms of education about, for, and through human rights. With the **OUR RIGHTS** project Slovenia, since 2005, has actively enabled education on the rights of the child for more than 180,000 children from a number of countries in 22 languages, including minority groups.

A **Festival of Tolerance** was organised twice (in 2015 and in 2016) in Slovenia to raise awareness about the need for respecting differences and combating intolerance. The festival addressed intolerance through various activities targeting youth in particular: by showing a number of movies, presenting symbols of hatred and hate speech and talking to holocaust survivors. It helped enhance capabilities for recognising threats and aspects of radicalisation.

### **3. Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism**

- Slovenia has ratified most international human rights and humanitarian law treaties, including the two 1977 Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as

well as major conventions against terrorism. Slovenia therefore accepts the competence of international and relevant regional human rights monitoring bodies.

- Slovenia was among those countries that strongly supported the establishment of the ICC, and today we fight for an even stronger Court. The country was also among those leading the way in making the Rome Statute more complete. At the 2010 Review Conference in Kampala, Uganda, States Parties agreed by consensus on a definition of the crime of aggression and to empower the ICC to prosecute those responsible for this crime.
- On 15 and 16 May 2014, representatives of States of the Eastern European Group (EEG) and interested observer States gathered in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, to discuss the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), focusing on the crime of aggression. With a view to promoting the universality of the Rome Statute, the event also looked into the achievements and challenges of the ICC.
- Slovenia actively promotes respect for human rights in the fight against terrorism. The importance of respect for human rights and the principle of proportionality are also underlined in the recent legal instruments, such as the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the prevention of terrorism, which Slovenia signed on 22. October 2015, and through legal initiatives within the European Union.