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OMNIBUS STATEMENT, Third committee

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Allow me to add some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Slovakia welcomes this opportunity to discuss the current situation of human rights in the world. We have witnessed in the last few months how important it is to reaffirm our commitment to secure and promote the fulfillment and realization of human rights for every single individual. Human rights must be respected in all fields of our life and States have the obligation to protect them fully. No justification can be used as a pretext for their violation.

In this regard, we strongly condemn Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against **Ukraine**. It is a clear sign of a strong violation of the UN Charter, international law, and the rules based on international order and peaceful coexistence that it underpins. Slovakia fully supports and respects Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence in internationally recognised borders

We, as an international community must be united and urge Russia to stop immediately its violent military aggression in Ukraine. We remain appalled by the huge numbers of killings of innocent civilians, attacks on critical infrastructure, as well as the huge scale of sexual- and gender-based violence committed by Russian soldiers and occupants. Not only women and girls but also other marginalized groups and persons belonging to minorities are affected by the consequences of this war and are even more likely to be exposed as victims due to the higher risk of devastating violation of their rights.

Mr. Chair, we believe that it is required a swift, comprehensive and human rights-based response also within the UN.

We are furthermore deeply concerned about the serious effects of the Russian invasion on global food security. As a result, millions of people around the world are being pushed into extreme poverty, hunger, and lack of access to food.

We call on Russia to enable free and safe passage of agricultural delivery and shipping from Ukrainian ports.

At the same time, we underscore the need for justice and accountability. In line with this, we welcome all initiatives to collect evidence and investigate crimes committed following the Russian invasion. We encourage the continuation of the work within the mandate of the **Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine** to provide evidence and recommendations on accountability. It is also essential to raise awareness of alleged human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, related to crimes in Ukraine.

Slovakia is also deeply concerned by the deteriorating situation of human rights in **Belarus**. Lukashenko's regime's involvement in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine systematically introduces repressions against civil society, human rights defenders, journalists, and independent media in Belarus. We continue to call on Belarus authorities and representatives to respect, protect and secure the full enjoyment of human rights for everybody and immediately and unconditionally release all opponents of the regime, whose voices were silenced by the regime.

Mr. Chair,

Slovakia also expresses its deep concern about the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights of women and girls in **Afghanistan** by the Taliban. We are deeply concerned about the continued prevalence of violence and discrimination, in all their forms and manifestations.

We call for equal enjoyment of all human rights for all women, girls, and children, including their right to freedom of movement, the right to participation in public life, as well as the right to education, which is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development and empowerment of all women and girls.

To conclude, Slovakia seizes this opportunity to reiterate once again its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.