**Call for Inputs:**

**Climate Change and Human Rights: A safe Climate**

Questions:

1. **Please provide examples of ways in which climate change is already having adverse impacts on the human rights of people within your State. Adversely affected rights could include, among others, the rights to life, health, water, adequate sanitation, food, culture, housing, property, self-determination, non-discrimination, a healthy and sustainable environment, and Indigenous rights.**

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1. **Given that “urgent. effective and ambitious action” to ensure a safe climate is essential to protecting a wide range of human rights, what are the specific obligations of States and businesses in terms of addressing the main drivers of climate change (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, industrial agriculture)?**

**Answer:**

Slovenia is in favor of ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets on national, EU and global level, which would enable to achieve the goal of limiting the growth of the global temperature below 2°C compared to preindustrial levels in accordance with commitments of Paris Agreement from 2015. Two headline targets of Slovenia’s energy concept are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions arising from energy consumption by at least 40% until 2030 as compared to 1990, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions arising from energy consumption by a minimum of 80% by 2050 as compared to 1990. Preparations are also underway for a National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), which will include national objectives by 2030 regarding following areas: decarbonisation (including targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting further use of renewable energy sources), energy efficiency, energy security, internal energy market research, innovation and competitiveness.

1. **Please provide examples of good practices in preventing, reducing, or eliminating the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights. Specific examples could include legislation, regulations, standards, policies, investments, and programmes in relation to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation. These examples may occur at the international, national, sub-national, or local level. Examples could involve: -research and monitoring; -guaranteeing procedural rights (e.g. access to climate change information, public participation in decision-making about climate change, access to justice and remedies); -eliminating subsidies for fossil fuel production and use; climate change legislation, regulations, standards, and policies; -initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from specific sectors (e.g. electricity generation, industry, government, transportation, agriculture, waste management); -laws, policies and programs to protect vulnerable populations from climate change; -laws, policies, or programs to concurrently address climate change and air pollution (e.g. programs promoting clean fuels and stoves for cooking and heating); and effective enforcement of rules governing greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and industrial agriculture.**

**Answer:**

Measures and instruments for reducing GHG emissions in Slovenia are the following:

- GHG emission allowance trading (The objective of the measure is to reduce emissions where this is most cost-effective.)

- An environmental tax on the pollution of air due to CO2 emissions (Internalisation of the external costs of air pollution due to CO2.)

- The use of best available techniques (Reducing energy consumption by using best available techniques.)

- Taxes and charges (Achieving simulative environment for greater use of environmentally friendly fuels by influencing the price of fossil fuels.)

- Education and training, informing, awareness and promotion (A high level of awareness, information and knowledge is necessary for the successful implementation of measures.)

- Green economy growth (Long-term GHG emission reduction by transition to economy, growth of which is based on innovations that increase energy efficiency and reduce GHG emissions.)

- Energy efficiency labelling and minimal standards for products and appliances (Improvement of products and appliances in terms of energy efficiency.)

- Obligations on energy suppliers for energy savings (Increase of energy efficiency with final consumers of energy.)

- Technological modernisation of thermal energy sector (A number of large thermal power plants are already nearing the end of their life expectancy; therefore their replacement is being planned. This will also result in a larger share of natural gas.)

- Promotion of power generation from RES and high efficiency CHP (The promotion scheme is the basic instrument in this area, which is implemented in the form of fixed feed-in tariffs of electricity and operational support.)

- Promotion of district heating based on RES and of CHP with high efficiency (Increase of energy and emission efficient generation of heat for district heating.)

- Promotion of energy efficiency in industry (Besides a reduction in production costs, the state is also promoting efficient energy use in industry by various programmes.)

- Promotion of energy efficiency and the use of RES in buildings in general (Taking into account various aspects of energy efficiency and the use of RES in spatial planning, feasibility studies of alternative systems of energy supply, pilot projects, renovation of cultural heritage, energy performance contracting, trainings of stakeholders in the area of building renovations and RES technologies, excise duty policy)

- Promotion of energy efficiency and the use of RES in households (State promotes investments in households by subsidies and soft loans; consulting network ENSVET has been established)

- Promotion of energy efficiency and the use of RES in the public sector (The public sector must set an example for the population in implementing the measures. The measures are promoted by financial incentives, while an important factor will be green public procurements.)

- Promotion of the use of public transport (The objective of this measure is to increase the number of passengers using public transport, which greatly decreased in the past.)

- Sustainable freight transport (The objective of the measure is to extend and modernise the railway network, which represents a precondition for the transition of freight transport from road to railway.)

- Vehicle efficiency improvement, promotion of efficient driving, an increase of vehicle occupancy rate and promotion of the use of low CO2 emission fuels (Specific use of vehicles will decrease due to European legislation which sets out allowed emissions per km for new passenger cars, fiscal pressure, informing and awareness rising. Also, a non-negligible influence of green public procurement is present and financial incentives for clean vehicles are available. The shares of RES in sold quantities are prescribed until 2020 for motor fuel distributers.)

- Promotion of non-motorised traffic (Cycling and walking are two significant ways of mobility which can add to a decrease of GHG emissions. They play an important role in the integrated transport strategies for municipalities.)

- Development of integrated transport strategies for municipalities (Integrated strategies contribute to the increase in share of sustainable mobility, the improvement of infrastructure and change in behavior.)

- Reduction of F-gas emissions from stationary equipment (Decrease in F-gas emissions by leak reduction, replacement and diligent handling with devices and introduction of quantitative cap for HFC gases on EU market.)

- Reduction of F-gas emissions from mobile air-conditioning in vehicles (The legislation lays down restrictions on the use of F-gases in air-conditioning systems in new cars.)

- An increase in the range of grazing for cattle (Grazing is promoted by subsidising measures and education; it produces lower emissions due to the avoidance of emissions generated through the storage of animal manure.)

- Rational fertilisation of agricultural land by nitrogen (Within the framework of the Rural Development Programme, numerous measures are implemented, directly contributing to a reduction in the use of mineral fertilisers.)

- A reduction in the quantity of deposited biodegradable waste (Slovenia has adopted several measures to reduce the amount of deposited biodegradable waste; for instance, separated collection of fractions, an environmental tax on waste disposal, treatment of waste before disposal, etc.)

- Waste reduction (A programme aiming to prevent waste generation was adopted.)

- Capture of landfill gas (The capture of landfill gas has been mandatory since 2005.)

Sustainable forest management and CO2 emission sinks (An increase in the wood supply simultaneously with an increase in CO2 sinks are a result of the work planned by the Slovenian Forest Service based on the principles of sustainability, environmental friendliness and multi-purposeness.)

1. **If your State has set a deadline for eliminating coal-fired electricity generation and/or ending the sale of motor vehicles with internal combustion engines, please provide details. If your State imposes a price on carbon emissions, please provide details.**

**Answer:**

Coal-fired electricity generation:

Due to the expiry of the lifetime and the requirements of the Directive on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (2010/75/EC) or directives prior to this one, the majority of the large power generating units in Slovenia should be replaced by modern and environmentally acceptable units with substantially higher efficiency, the power generation from CHP with high efficiency should be increased and where necessary, a partial change in fuel should be carried out – primarily a partial transition to natural gas20 and higher use of wood biomass in co-firing. For reducing GHG emissions, the following implemented and planned measures are important:

* Šoštanj Thermal Power Plant (TEŠ): in 2014, the TEŠ Unit 3 was permanently closed down, and in 2015, the new TEŠ Unit 6 started its trial operation to gradually replace the operation of all other existing units of this power plant. The Contract on the Arrangement of Mutual Relations between the Government of Republic of Slovenia and Šoštanj Thermal Power Plant defines a gradual reduction of GHG emissions, stating an emissions ceiling of annual CO2 emissions from the existing units and unit 6 for the period 2016−2054. The upper ceiling will be reduced, considering the initial value; it will be 28% lower by 2030, 40% lower by 2035 and 52% lower by 2040.
* In 2014, Trbovlje Thermal Power Plant (TET) stopped generating electricity by burning brown coal for economic reasons. In 2012, the commercial production of coal was stopped in Trbovlje Hrastnik Mine which used to be the main coal supplier.
* Ljubljana Heat and Power Plant: the investment in the wood biomass co-incineration in unit 3 was realised in 2008 (20% of coal was replaced by wood biomass in this unit). A gradual transition to natural gas is planned.
* Brestanica Thermal Power Plant: units in this power plant are intended for reserve capacities; the replacement of old 1−3 units with a new unit is under way.

Ending the sale of motor vehicles with internal combustion engines:

In 2017, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a strategy regarding market development for the establishment of adequate infrastructure related to alternative fuels in the country’s transport sector. The strategy proposes groups of measures for each alternative fuel (electricity, liquefied petroleum gas, liquefied natural gas, compressed natural gas, biofuels and hydrogen), for which a detailed action plan for 2018–2020 will be prepared. The key objectives of the strategy are: from 2025, first registration of passenger vehicles and light-duty vehicles (M1, MG1 and N1 categories) with a total carbon footprint greater than 100 g CO2/km according to the manufacturer's declaration, will be limited, and after 2030, the first registration of cars with internal combustion using petrol or diesel with a total carbon footprint of more than 50 g CO2/km will not be allowed anymore.

Price on carbon emissions:

In Slovenia, the environmental tax on CO2 emissions (the CO2 environmental tax) was introduced in 1997, the current legal basis for the tax is provided in the Decree on environmental tax on carbon dioxide emissions9 and the Environmental Protection Act10. The environmental tax is paid for the use of fuels and, since 2008, for the use of fluorinated greenhouse gases. With the new Decree, the F-gases tax was abolished in 2016. The exemption of tax payment for the combustion of fuels for liquefied petroleum gas and natural gas as a propellant was also abolished. The basis for the calculation of the environmental tax on CO2 emissions is the sum of the units of pollution of the purchased amount of fuels. The price per unit of pollution is determined by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and has amounted to €17.3/t CO2 9 since 1 April 2016 and has not changed since the last decision was adopted. Prior to that, it amounted to €14.40/t CO2.

1. **Please provide evidence related to the implementation, enforcement, and effectiveness of the measures identified in your responses to Questions #3 and 4. This could include information related to budgets (e.g. investments in renewable energy or revenues generated by carbon taxes), human resources (size of agencies responsible for environmental monitoring and enforcement), and measurable outcomes such as reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, declining rates of deforestation, or increases in the area reforested/numbers of trees planted.**

**Answer:**

* **GHG EMISSION ALLOWANCE TRADING (EU-ETS):** After 2013, 73 plants in Slovenia were included in the GHG emission allowance trading scheme in phase three and these represented 36.3% of total GHG emissions. Operators are distributed in the following IPCC sectors: energy industries, where most of the operators are included in the EU ETS; manufacturing industries and construction, where 63% of GHG emissions of this sector are included in the EU ETS; and industrial processes, where 54% of GHG emissions are included in the EU ETS. Since 2012, the EU ETS also includes aviation. Emissions of the EU ETS sector reduced by 26% in the 2005–2016 period, in the transformation sector by 24.1% and industrial emission from fuel consumption and processes by 31.0%.
* **USE OF BEST AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES:** The Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions is the key instrument regulating the emissions of harmful substances, while the most important instrument in regard to emissions from fuel use or for the promotion of energy efficiency and substitution of fuels in industry is the emissions trading, EU ETS (measure M-1), with the Directive 2010/75/EU merely complementing it. The aim of the directive is the introduction and the promotion of the best available technologies (BAT) through environmental permits for installations and devices and their control. In Slovenia, this instrument contributed to the key reduction of GHG gases emissions in industrial processes, when the old electrolysis unit was stopped since it failed to meet the standards of the best available technologies. Consequently, the PFC emissions were reduced by approximately 85%.
* **OBLIGATIONS OF ENERGY SUPPLIERS TO ACHIEVE ENERGY SAVINGS IN ENERGY SOLD TO FINAL CUSTOMERS:** In 2015, in accordance with Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) 17 and Article 318 of the EZ-1, a new scheme of mandatory end-use energy savings for retail energy sales companies was established. In the scheme, which is more accurately defined by the Decree on Energy Savings Requirements18, all suppliers of electricity, gas, liquid and solid fuels are obliged to ensure the achievement of energy savings among final customers, while the amount of savings that the obligated parties have to achieve, varies from 0.25% of the energy sold in the previous year in 2015, up to 0.75% in 2018 and from 2018 onwards. According to the Slovenian Energy Agency, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the new scheme of mandatory end-use energy savings target, in 2015, 163 obligated parties were included in the scheme and they achieved 502.2 GWh of energy savings, of which 57% were achieved by implementing measures in economy19, and 39% by implementing measures in transport. In 2016, 167 obligated parties reduced energy consumption at final customers by 327.3 GWh, of which 56% of all savings were achieved by measures in industry, 31% by measures in transport, and 7.5% by measures in households. There is no information available on the achieved CO2 reduction for 2015, but for 2016, it was estimated at 89 kt.
* **PROMOTION OF CO-GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY AND HEAT WITH HIGH EFFICIENCY:** The promotion scheme for production of electricity from high efficiency co-generation of electricity and heat (CHP) and renewable energy sources was introduced by Slovenia in 2002. In 2009, some important modifications were introduced in the scheme in order to promote a too slow development in CHP. As it was shown over time that the majority of all new entrants into the scheme is represented by the most expensive technologies, the amended Energy Act (EZ-1)21 in 2014 has introduced a full renewal of the support scheme with the goal of managing its costs. In 2015, the CHP support scheme system included installations with the total of 87.7 MW of electric power installed, which generate the total of 342 GWh of electricity. Compared to the previous year, the installed power has increased by 22.7%, especially on the account of smaller units in the service sector. In 2016, the installed power of the installations has slightly reduced to 84.9 MW and they generated 325GWh of electricity. The reduction of GHG emissions due to the operation of CHP systems using fossil fuels is estimated to 96.9 kt CO2 eq in 2015; in 2016, the reduction of GHG emissions amounted to 92.4 kt CO2 eq. In 2015, the RES support scheme system included RES installations with the total of 341 MW of electric power, which generate the total of 639 GWh of electricity, or only 1% more than a year before. In 2016, electric power of installations amounted to 343 MW, which generated 678.5 GWh of electricity or 6.2% more than in 2015. These installations include by far the most solar power plants, with its number having increased dramatically in the 2011−2013 period. In total, in 2015, the installations on RES included in the support scheme contributed to the reduction of GHG emissions by 415.5, and by 443.1kt CO2 eq in 2016. Like in the case of co-generation the volume of entrances into the system is expected to lower in the future as a result of ensuring the financial sustainability of the said scheme. In order to increase the RES-generated heat and electricity, in the 2015−2020 period, there will be funds available within the scope of the Rural Development Programme 2014–2020 (PRP) (13/2/2015), specifically, within the scope of the support instruments for investments in agricultural holdings, support for investments in processing, marketing and/or development of agricultural products and support for investments in the establishment and development of non-agricultural activities.
* **PROMOTION ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY USE IN HOUSEHOLDS:** The main measure for promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in households continue to remain financial grants allocated by the Eco Fund, the Slovenian Public Environmental Fund, for such investments in one-apartment and two-apartment buildings since 2008, and since 2009 for multi-apartment buildings. Set of measures funded by grants differ in regard to the invitation to tender and in regard to the amount of the received grant. Funds for grants are collected by means of a contribution paid per energy use in order to increase energy efficiency, and from 2014 onwards, funds from the Climate Fund are also made available by the Eco Fund in the said tenders. In 2015, the first open call exclusively for citizens with a low socio-economic status was also published, which financed the replacement of old solid fuel combustion installations from the above mentioned Climate Fund. A similar open call was made in 2017. In total, EUR 38.8 million of Eco Fund grants in the 2015–2016 period funded investments in households with a value of EUR 224.9 million, which resulted in an annual reduction in final energy consumption by 231 GWh, and CO2 emissions by 27 kt.
* **PROMOTION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND USE OF RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY IN PUBLIC SECTOR:** In the 2013–2014 period, EEU and RES use in public sector was promoted mostly by grants for energy renovation of buildings provided from the Cohesion Fund within the scope of the OP ROPI 2007−2013. In the period of two years, the total of EUR 114 million of grants were allocated within the scope of various calls to tender to 244 projects achieving the reduction of final energy consumption by poor 112 GWh per annum, and in regard to CO2 emissions reduction, a solid amount of 31 kt was reached. In 2015, the final projects regarding energy renovation of public buildings financed under the OP ROPI were completed. In 2016, the Ministry of Infrastructure offered grants from the Cohesion Fund for comprehensive energy renovation of buildings owned by municipalities in total of EUR 10.6 million. The first co-financing contracts were concluded in 2017 and the deadline for the disbursement of funds is planned for the second half of 2018. In the period up to 2020, the Eco Fund and ERDF programmes will continue to provide the public sector with subsidised loans and grants in the scope of mandatory final energy savings for energy sales companies.
* **PROMOTION OF NON-MOTORISED MODES OF TRANSPORT:** The Programme for the Development of Transport envisages measures for promotion of greater inter-modality, where cycling is considered an important means of mobility (bike & ride), and an improvement of the cycling network is foreseen (establishment of the national cycling network and local cycling networks. In 2011, the bicycle rental system called BicikeLJ was introduced in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. It is possible to rent 510 bicycles from 51 bicycle stations. 4 million rides have been made with the bikes so far. Smaller bicycle rental systems also operate in towns such as Velenje, Šoštanj, Ravne na Koroškem, Jesenice, Kranj, Piran and Ptuj.
* **COLLECTION OF LANDFILL GAS:** All landfill operators were obliged to build landfill gas capture facilities by the end of 2005. In 2015, 6.5 kt of methane was captured, which is 30% of the methane generated on landfills. Landfill gas is mostly used for production of electricity. The landfill gas capture in 2020 amounts to emissions reduction by 105 kt CO2 eq., and by 75 kt CO2 eq. in 2030.
1. **What are ways in which high-income States should assist low-income States in responding to climate change, while simultaneously contributing to sustainable development in those low-income States?**

**Answer:**

The EU Member States, including Slovenia, follow the commitment of the Paris Agreement to mobilise USD 100 billion per year by 2020 for assistance and implementation of measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change in developing countries. The assistance includes financial resources, a transfer of the “climate-friendly technologies” as well as strengthening administrative capability of developing countries in this area.

1. **What are the main challenges or barriers that your government, business, or organization has faced in attempting to address the impacts of climate change on human rights?**

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1. **What are ways in which additional protection is provided (or should be provided) for populations who may find themselves in circumstances in which they are particularly vulnerable to climate change (e.g. women, children, persons living in poverty, Indigenous peoples and members of traditional communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic, racial or other minorities and displaced persons)? What are ways in which these populations can be empowered to act as agents of change in addressing climate change?**

**Answer:**

Energy poverty:

In order to co-finance the energy renovation of residential buildings within the framework of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI), EUR 11.8 million is reserved for this, and EUR 5 million for the implementation of measures in 500 households facing the issue of energy poverty. Other important measures for promoting EEU and RES in residential buildings which are already being implemented include the energy consulting network for citizens (ENSVET; see details under measure (M-5)) and a scheme for energy renovation projects for vulnerable groups of population. Within the scope of this scheme, the Eco Fund, in order to advise on EEU measures and the purchase of goods for socially vulnerable households to tackle energy poverty with the help of ENSVET in the 2016–2020 period, has an annual budget of EUR 100,000 confirmed by the Climate Change Fund, with the aim to enable 500 consultations annually.

1. **How do you ensure that the rights of individuals working on climate change (environmental human rights defenders) are protected? What efforts has your Government or business made to create a safe and enabling environment for them to freely exercise their rights without fear of violence, intimidation, harassment or reprisal?**

**Answer:**

Already in our constitution democratic system governed by the rule of law is guaranteed. In Slovenia power is vested in the people. The state protects human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall provide for the preservation of the natural wealth and cultural heritage and create opportunities for the harmonious development of society and culture in Slovenia, to list only a few provisions of the Constitution.

So there is a large variety of different NGOs in the areas of environment and climate change. They regularly operate and organize interesting and efficient activities in this regard. We would like to add that in current preparation of climate policy strategy the civil society is very much involved in this process lead by the Government. Therefore not only that they can act without limitations but the state closely cooperates with them since they are considered as its allies in planning measures to mitigate climate change effects.

1. **For businesses, what policies or practices are in place to ensure that your activities, products, and services (extraction/sourcing, manufacturing, distribution, sale, and end-**

**of life management) minimize climate change impacts and meet human rights standards, especially those articulated in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?**

**Answer:**

The EMAS (ECO-Management and Audit Scheme) scheme is designed to promote more appropriate environmental management and to inform the public about the environmental impact of their activities. It is an upgrade to ISO 14001 to ensure greater openness, honesty and periodic publication of verified environmental information. The environmental statement represents the main way of informing the public of the results of the continuous improvement of the effects of environmental management and is at the same time an opportunity to promote a positive image of the organization with customers, suppliers, surroundings, contractors and employees.