

**TARGETED STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION 2023 RULE OF LAW REPORT  
UN HUMAN RIGHTS REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE (OHCHR)**

**SLOVENIA REVIEW**

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**IV. Other institutional issues related to checks and balances**

**A. The process for preparing and enacting laws**

*Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process*

In October 2022, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment in his statement at the conclusion of country visit to Slovenia stated that he was surprised to learn that in recent years, previous governments made several efforts to weaken important environmental laws in Slovenia, as well as efforts to reduce opportunities for public participation in environmental decision-making. He noted that the principle of non-retrogression means that laws and regulations protecting human rights and/or the environment can only be weakened in extraordinary circumstances where there are no other viable options. He pointed out that many persons with whom he met expressed concerns about their inability to gain easy, timely and affordable access to important information, to participate meaningfully in environmental decision-making and to have their concerns addressed. He stressed that according to the Human Rights Ombudsman, public participation in environmental matters has been undermined by short deadlines, substantial amendments to laws post-consultation that are not discussed with the public, and chronic failures to provide a comprehensive rationale for proposed legislative changes. He also noted that the new government had reached out to civil society to form a new advisory body to the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning ([20221006-eom-Slovenia-sr-env-en.docx \(live.com\)](#)).

**D. The enabling framework for civil society**

*Rules and practices having an impact on the effective operation and safety of civil society organisations and human rights defenders. This includes measures for protection from attacks – verbal, physical or online –, intimidation, legal threats incl. SLAPPs, negative narratives or smear campaigns, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc. It also includes measures to monitor threats or attacks and dedicated support services.*

In October 2022, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment in his statement at the conclusion of country visit to Slovenia informed that he was surprised to hear from civil society organizations, activists, doctors and youth that they had been threatened, harassed, and subjected to lawsuits because of their work to protect human rights and the environment. He recommended that Slovenia should vigorously investigate and prosecute any individuals or businesses that engage in unlawful intimidation activities and encouraged the government to enact proposed whistleblower legislation ([20221006-eom-Slovenia-sr-env-en.docx \(live.com\)](#)). Kindly note that the full report will be made public in March 2023.