Thank you, Madam Chair.

Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Without repeating the position of the EU and its Member States on the set of questions related to 'Transmission of requests and materials', 'Grounds for refusal' and 'Other questions', we would like to share some additional views on the execution of a request for an international cooperation in our national capacity.

Madam Chair,

We agree that the new convention should incorporate minimal common standards regarding grounds for refusal and, at the same time, allow each State Party to assess a request for international cooperation in accordance with the conditions established in its domestic law. Written contribution of the EU and its Member States contains a proposal on provisions to that end in line with the existing legal instruments.

Furthermore, as already established in UNTOC and UNCAC, there should be a possibility for State Parties not to extradite a person if there are substantial grounds for believing that such a request has been made for the purpose of prosecuting or punishing a person on account of that person’s protected characteristics.

We consider that these characteristics should be expanded to all the characteristics covered under Article 2 of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Furthermore, we support the views of those State Parties that have advocated for additionally including physical and mental disabilities of a person, sexual orientation, and gender identity under the characteristics to be expressly mentioned in the relevant provision.

Finally, we share the view that it is impossible to exclude, at an abstract level, that the offences established in accordance with the convention could under certain circumstances be considered as political offences.

Madam Chair,

We would like to reiterate again that instead of excluding various possibilities for refusing cooperation special attention should be paid to encouraging State Parties to resolve any obstacles before finally deciding to refuse cooperation, as well as to strengthening mutual trust by providing sufficient safeguards and flexibility in application of the convention’s provisions.
Thank you, Madam Chair.