



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

Implementation of the Commitments of the First Summit for Democracy

Theme 1: DEFENDING AGAINST AUTHORITARIANISM

Regarding the media, the most important task has been to reduce the influence of politics on public media, especially the public broadcaster RTV Slovenija and the Slovenian Press Agency (STA). The amendment to the Radiotelevizija Slovenija Act, which is currently under review by the Constitutional Court, envisages a significant change to the management of the public broadcasting service, as the majority of the members of the Supervisory Board and the Programme Board of RTV Slovenija would no longer be appointed by the National Assembly. The right to appoint councillors of the institution's single management and supervisory body, the RTV Slovenija Council, would be transferred to the employees and civil society organisations. As a result, it would be much more difficult for party politics to directly influence the management and operation of RTV Slovenija.

In late 2022, the government also repealed a controversial regulation requiring the Slovenian Press Agency to charge for its public service mission on a "per item" basis, i.e., according to the number of news items and photos published. This damaging regulation allowed for political pressure to be brought to bear on the Agency's work and for a financial drain on the STA. Its journalists now have more autonomy to carry out their mission of informing the public. Amendments to the Slovenian Press Agency Act will shortly be drafted to define more precisely the STA's funding and strengthen its financial and editorial autonomy.

The introduction of the anti-Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) directive will ensure greater freedom of functioning for the Slovenian media by protecting journalists and media outlets, as such lawsuits are particularly harmful for smaller independent media outlets that lack human and financial resources. A tender will be published for a focal point to assist with SLAPP lawsuits.

A government group has been set up to curb hate speech, as journalists, especially women, remain a frequent target of attacks and threats. Restrictions on the dissemination of hate speech (incitement to inequality and intolerance) are already partly covered by the existing Mass Media Act which, however, does not regulate activities on the Internet, including online forums and comments under articles, and large digital platforms.

Slovenia has continued its efforts to step up activities in the fight against disinformation and the criminalisation of hate speech. It has worked to protect free access to information and the freedom of expression at the same time. It has implemented programmes and worked with professional stakeholders to improve digital literacy. Through development cooperation projects, Slovenia will continue to strengthen social resilience in the fight against disinformation in the Western Balkan countries. It has always opposed the switching off of the Internet in the fight against disinformation or public unrest.

Slovenia has continued to work with a wide range of NGOs and promote a plural society.

It has been actively engaged in protecting free and fair elections, by supporting both the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and EU observer missions, thus promoting democratic elections around the world. Several long-term and short-term observers were seconded to election observation missions, and observer training courses were organised. Slovenia enhanced the recommendations for, and technical assistance to, countries facing shortcomings in election processes.

As an advocate of effective multilateralism with the United Nations at the core, Slovenia has continued its numerous activities in multilateral fora. In addition to advocating greater effectiveness of the UN's work, it also works to ensure the inclusion of all actors, and the legitimacy and transparency of international decision-making. Solidarity also plays an important

role in this regard, so Slovenia has tripled its humanitarian aid, doubled its climate funding, increased its contributions to food security sixfold and was among the largest donors of COVID-19 vaccines, per capita.

Slovenia has been actively engaged in international relations to foster tolerance and mutual respect, and to protect populations from atrocities. As one of the initiators of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), Slovenia organised prevention activities aimed at raising awareness of the primary responsibility of states to protect their populations from negative social processes that might lead to atrocities. As a member of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), Slovenia has carried out teacher training projects on teaching about the Holocaust and its aftermath, as well as translating awareness-raising materials into Slovene. It has supported projects promoting the idea of tolerance and the importance of respecting one another and those who are different.

Theme 2: ADDRESSING AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION, ECONOMIC AND ORGANISED CRIME

Slovenia has offered the Western Balkan countries its expertise in the operational and strategic analysis of prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing (AML/CFT), criminal abuse of virtual currencies and modern AML/CFT technologies, and financial investigations in the field of AML/CFT. Slovenia also provided expert assistance in the preparation of the fifth round of evaluations for the Council of Europe's Special Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL), and in the exchange of experience on new trends and typologies.

Slovenia undertakes to promote the responsibility of states in using ICT, thus enhancing international peace and cybersecurity. As part of the UN processes, Slovenia supports the draft Programme of Action for Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace.

Theme 3: PROMOTING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Slovenia has enhanced its efforts to ensure respect for human rights in the UNHRC and UNGA. It has carried out development cooperation projects aimed at promoting (1) gender equality and women's empowerment, (2) freedom of religion and belief, (3) human rights education, (4) access to clean water and sanitation, and (5) strengthening the role of mediation.

Slovenia is part of the core group of countries – initiators of a new universal right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (R2HE). It is also among the leading countries in addressing the rights of older persons and advocates the establishment of a new binding international instrument to protect the human rights of older persons. Slovenia continues its activities on human rights education, including for children, as well as the protection of minority rights. In addition to providing political support for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, Slovenia has also increased its contributions to international organisations.

In the context of its efforts to develop appropriate policies and measures aimed at promoting gender equality and protecting the human rights of individuals in vulnerable circumstances, Slovenia has adopted a new resolution on a national programme for equal opportunities for women and men, developed and strengthened policies to consolidate commitments to eliminate violence against women at home and abroad, and implemented activities aimed at comprehensive regulation and implementation of the human rights of older persons, including in the context of digital literacy. As part of the empowerment of vulnerable groups, Slovenia will strive to increase enrolment in educational programmes and step up the number of employees in ICT and related interdisciplinary studies by devoting special attention to the enrolment of girls in these studies. Slovenia has updated the Resolution on the National Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and strengthened dialogue with civil society. Within the Violence Prevention Network, Slovenia has co-financed programmes on violence prevention, including on violence against older persons. Regarding the implementation of the rights of older

persons, Slovenia has adopted a new dementia management strategy, promotes a positive image of older persons, and has carried out the digitisation of public institutions.

On preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, Slovenia implemented the tasks set out in the Action Plan 2021–2022 to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings. A new National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings has been appointed and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2023–2024 adopted. In addition to its regular activities, the National Working Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings addressed the issue of forced labour and planned preventive activities aimed at informing citizens of Ukraine and raising awareness of human trafficking among the general public. Guidelines for labour inspectors have been adopted to facilitate the detection and identification of trafficking victims. In accordance with the provisions of the Act ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Slovenia has financed projects aimed at providing care, accommodation and support for such victims. The projects focused on providing care for trafficking victims in crisis centres and safe locations and on reintegration programme for trafficked persons. Slovenia also transposed the provisions of the EU Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims into its Criminal Code.

Slovenia has continued its efforts to improve the social and economic situation of the Roma community to and create the conditions for improving their social inclusion and empowerment. Measures for the benefit of the Roma community and their support will continue to be provided in order to promote their full inclusion into, and equality in, Slovenian society, in line with the principle that human rights, responsibility and the rule of law apply equally to all citizens. Regarding equal opportunities for women and men, Slovenia has funded projects to reduce inequalities and empower Roma women. Efforts have been made to improve the socio-economic situation of members of the Roma community and pave the way for improving their social inclusion and empowerment, including by co-financing multi-purpose Roma centres. Through social activation programmes, Slovenia has helped improve the social inclusion of the long-term unemployed and people with complex social problems, thereby increasing their employment opportunities, including through the social activation of Roma women.

In line with its commitments, Slovenia has protected human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of new technologies and artificial intelligence. In their development and application, Slovenia has applied an approach based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, devoting special attention to privacy, dignity, right to a fair trial, protection of consumers' rights, non-discrimination and trust in new technologies. In 2021, Slovenia adopted the National Programme for the Promotion of Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence until 2025, committing to the use of AI for the benefit of people and society. Slovenia was actively engaged in the shaping of EU regulations on AI and in developing international standards in international organisations.

It has also worked together with the UNHCR to extend the commitments related to corporate responsibility to technological businesses. Based on the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP), Slovenia pursues the goals of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights .

Slovenia's new commitments

Slovenia announces further commitments:

Slovenia commits to continuing its efforts to prevent domestic violence and violence against women:

- Slovenia commits to adopting a new Resolution on the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2023–2028.
- It will seek to strengthen cooperation with NGOs on domestic violence.
- It will work to strengthen education on issues relating to domestic violence.

Slovenia undertakes to ensure that it will continue efforts on trafficking in human beings and combating it in accordance with the 2023–24 Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

- Regarding prevention, in addition to awareness-raising among the general and professional public, special attention will be devoted to raising awareness of the at-risk target group of children and minors about the problem of trafficking in human beings and of the private sector about forced labour.
- Every effort will be made to effectively identify and investigate all forms of trafficking in human beings and prosecute the perpetrators.
- As far as possible, the police will also carry out activities to detect such crimes in cyberspace.
- Slovenia will continue to provide adequate protection and assistance to victims of human trafficking in accordance with the Act ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.
- The focus will be placed on measures that facilitate the reintegration of victims into society, which will require close cooperation with civil society.
- Cooperation with the victims' countries of origin and transit, including with international and regional partners, will be further strengthened.

Slovenia will continue its efforts to improve the situation of the Roma community in all social aspects of life:

- Through the implementation of the National Programme of Measures for Roma for the period 2021–2030, it will strengthen its commitment to improving the socio-economic situation of members of the Roma community, creating conditions for their social inclusion and empowerment, and their full inclusion into, and equality in, Slovenian society.

Slovenia will continue to take measures aimed at strengthening a plural society:

- After the expiry of the Strategy for the Development of NGOs and Volunteering until 2023, Slovenia will adopt a new Strategy for the Development of NGOs 2024–28, which will be drafted in a participatory process, and continue the course of the previous strategy, thus creating the conditions for strengthening a plural civil society.

Slovenia will be active in business and human rights:

- It commits to taking measures aimed at supporting increased competitiveness in public procurement.

Slovenia will continue to play an active role in the digital transformation and contribute to the development of international standards for the protection of human rights in the context of new technologies and artificial intelligence:

- It will continue its active involvement in the development of AI regulation, standards and policies in international organisations, both by participating in the development of AI regulations at EU level, as well as in the Council of Europe's AI Convention, and in the OECD's development of best practices for trustworthy AI.
- It will remain committed to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of new technologies and AI, with a focus on privacy, dignity, fair trial, consumer protection, non-discrimination, and trust in new technologies.
- It will actively strengthen cybersecurity, including in cooperation with international partners.

Slovenia will strengthen media independence by:

- Adequately reforming media legislation, in particular the Media Act and the STA Act
- Preparing a media scheme to support journalism
- Establishing a website with information on the true owners of the media and on state advertising

In the context of international relations Slovenia will:

- Promote women's rights and gender equality as regards security, human rights and development and humanitarian activities, in line with the new foreign policy strategy, which will include elements of a feminist foreign policy.

- Support the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, both through its own activities and in multilateral fora, highlighting the importance of preventing sexual violence in conflict. A new National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSC resolutions on women, peace and security is under preparation.
- In May 2023, Slovenia will host the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes and Other International Crimes (MLA Convention).
- It will provide training on gender equality and the inclusion of women in peacekeeping operations and missions, as well as on the impact of climate change on the implementation of peacekeeping operations and missions, within the framework of the Peace Operations and Missions Training and Education Centre (POTC).
- As a member of ECOSOC in the 2023–25 period, Slovenia will strive for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and contribute to finding solutions to global challenges.
- It will continue to promote the link between the living environment and human rights, building on the UN resolution for the recognition of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as well as its implementation and enforcement at the global level.
- It will continue to promote, respect and enforce International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and humanitarian principles in armed conflicts.