**The 2020 Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence plenary session**

(Virtual Conference)

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*Thank you for the word.*

*Good morning and good evening to my colleagues around the globe.*

*Slovenia agrees with the OECD principles for responsible management of a trustworthy AI, which is a key condition for joining the GPAI. We believe that the deployment of AI in accordance with the objectives and principles of the OECD must be unified at global and international level. Partial solutions are therefore not possible and do not contribute to the effective development of the AI, which should take advantage of all the opportunities that the AI brings, while ensuring an appropriate level of security, accountability and democratic standards. In Slovenia’s opinion, the GPAI’s focus should primarily be on international cooperation in transition of defined goals and principles of introducing AI into real life into concrete solutions.*

*Good practices of such introduction of AI will be a key condition for the support and success of a defined approach at global level. Slovenia is ready to actively participate.*

*Slovenia is currently preparing the National Program for AI. It is being prepared in close cooperation between Member States at EU level, which will be the basis for activities in the field of AI at both national and international level.*

*Our programme strives to introduce AI in such a way that the development and use of all AI systems is aimed at ensuring the well-being of citizens and society as much as possible, with special commitment to preserving Slovenia's national language and cultural identity. AI can be a key tool, as it allows people to be actually the center of attention when promoting digitalisation.*

*However, that is not enough. To ensure effective, rapid and successful implementation of AI in a wide range of areas where AI can deliver extraordinary effects (e.g. health, industry 4.0, public administration, UN Sustainable Development Goals) ensuring public trust is a prerequisite. AI should be based on respect and guarantee ethical principles and fundamental human rights as well as ensure the same level of appropriate legal and social rights in the digital world.*

*From a technical point of view, standardization will also be crucial, as it should enable reduction of entry barriers to market entry, especially for innovative SME solutions.*

*Our national program will support concrete actions to ensure these guidelines and principles, while at the same time supporting research, innovation, deployment and use of AI systems throughout the innovation life cycle.*

*I also wish to emphasize the importance of appropriate digital competences, lifelong digital literacy of the population and the need to adapt the education system for the future digital society and for specific needs of the digital economy, public sector and public administration. Slovenia will follow successful examples of solving the challenges of AI implementation and adopt good practices that will emerge in the GPAI.*

*During Slovenia's presidency of the Council of the EU in 2021, AI is one of the topics that we plan on paying special attention to in the field of digitalisation and digitisation. In the field of digitalization, these are horizontal topics that extend to practically all areas and will require integration and intensive content coordination of various departments, content sectors and stakeholders.*

*At international level, Slovenia is already active in addressing the issue of AI in the EU, the Council of Europe, the OECD and other international organizations. The first International Research Center for AI (IRCAI) is established in Slovenia under the auspices of UNESCO. Its objective is to contribute to solving UN global challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and empower countries to prepare appropriate policies and effective action.*

*Slovenia is ready to act as a link between various initiatives in the field of AI, enabling successful and efficient coordination and cooperation with and within the GPAI.*

*Thank you.*