**13th Slovenian Development Days: Business in Support of Global Solidarity**

*Concept paper*

Contemporary global challenges, such as the consequences of armed conflicts, climate change and the energy crisis, require innovative and comprehensive approaches in which cooperation between the public, business and non-governmental sectors is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Involving the private sector in development cooperation and humanitarian aid (DCHA) provides an additional source of funding and offers significant potential to promote innovation, create jobs and encourage long-term economic growth while addressing social and environmental responsibilities. As an innovative country, Slovenia has the opportunity to develop and strengthen models of cooperation through strategic partnerships between the business sector, state institutions and civil society, which will make development projects and humanitarian interventions more effective and sustainable. The central theme of the 13th Slovenian Development Days is therefore the concept of public-private partnerships, and the event will present concrete ways of involving Slovenian companies in DCHA activities.

Over the past fifteen years, significant changes have occurred in the international development arena as a result of the emergence of non-traditional donors, such as Brazil, China, India and the Gulf States. Their approaches, which are primarily based on economic cooperation but do not consistently adhere to the traditional donor principles of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, have increased the geographical and financial scope of aid, but have also made coordination more challenging and hindered the effective achievement of the SDGs. Furthermore, they create political and economic dependency, deepening the debt crisis of recipient countries. The gap between the needs of developing countries and available public resources is being further exacerbated by the increasingly severe effects of climate change and conflicts, which highlights the urgent need to mobilise private capital.

The European Union is putting forward and developing strategies such as the Global Gateway, which involves mobilising private resources for sustainable investments. In this context, the business sector plays a vital role as it provides innovation, risk capital and market knowledge, all of which are essential for sustainable development and adapting to complex global challenges. Meanwhile, traditional public sources of official development assistance (ODA) are declining due to constraints on public finance, economic uncertainties and shifts in global priorities.

As humanitarian needs grow and public funds shrink, there is an increasing need for innovative forms of cooperation. The private sector and philanthropists are already contributing by financing humanitarian programmes, introducing technological solutions and providing logistical support. However, this funding is often short-term and unstable, so there is a need to develop sustainable public-private partnerships with clearly defined standards, accountability and mutual trust.

Examples of good practice show that the systematic involvement of the business sector in development and humanitarian projects can significantly improve aid effectiveness and impact. The key questions remains: How can we ensure that long-term public-private partnerships remain transparent, fair and respectful of humanitarian principles? How can we establish models of cooperation that respond to global and local needs at a time of declining public resources?

The 13th Slovenian Development Days will therefore play a crucial role in formulating strategies and recommendations that encourage the active and responsible participation of the private sector in the Republic of Slovenia's DCHA, thereby contributing to the effective and sustainable response to global development and humanitarian challenges.