# Priorities of the Republic of Slovenia at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly

Slovenia has traditionally been striving to strengthen effective and rule-based multilateralism, with the UN playing a central role, based on the close interconnection between, and complementarity of, peace and security, development, and human rights, taking into consideration respect for international law and the goals and principles enshrined in the UN Charter. On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, Slovenia would like to reiterate its commitment to the UN’s goals and principles.

Slovenia will maintain its support for the UN’s efforts to maintain peace and security, achieve sustainable development, promote the respect for and protection of human rights, and ensure respect for, and development of, international law.

Slovenia will pursue its priorities independently and in the framework of EU priorities, cooperating and coordinating with EU Member States and other like-minded partners and allies.

## Effective multilateral cooperation in new global circumstances

### Strengthening multilateral cooperation when tackling global challenges

The Covid-19 pandemic has sent a clear warning signal of the importance of enhanced multilateral cooperation when addressing global challenges not only in public health but also in all other areas transcending national borders, which cannot be resolved unilaterally.

### Effectiveness of the UN

Given the importance of multilateral cooperation, the UN should be more effective and operational. The “new reality” brought forth by Covid-19 calls for a re-evaluation of the organisational and procedural aspects of the UN’s work. In the reform processes, Slovenia will thus strive for strengthening of the Organization’s agility in responding to contemporary challenges. Slovenia believes that the reform processes – revitalisation of the General Assembly, reform of the Security Council and a new management paradigm for the Secretariat – need to be adapted in order to ensure transparency, inclusiveness and democratic procedures. Changes in the operations of the main bodies in particular demand a changed mindset of member states, as it is the states who adopt rules and make decisions. The overall effectiveness of the UN thus depends on its member states.

### Slovenia – a credible and visible partner in the international community

In accordance with the Foreign Policy Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia and taking into consideration its own interests, Slovenia will play a proactive role at the UNGA session. It will advocate for constructive solutions respecting international law and human rights to the benefit of the entire world (conflict prevention, solidarity, protection of the most vulnerable groups, respect for religious freedoms, sustainable reconstruction, strengthening resilience, etc.). It will fulfil its obligations towards the UN in a timely manner and – by participating in UN sessions, events and conferences at appropriate levels – will prove itself a reliable and trustworthy partner in the international community.

Furthermore, Slovenia will seize the opportunity of the 75th anniversary of the UN to bring to the fore the UN’s work in Slovenia in this jubilee year and in two years’ time, on the 30th anniversary of Slovenia’s membership of the UN (22 May 2022).

## International peace and security

### Gender mainstreaming in the area of international peace and security

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, Slovenia will keep striving for gender mainstreaming and the participation of women in activities related to peace and security.

### Preserving and strengthening multilateral instruments related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

The existing international and regional tensions, continued fragmentation of security regimes and weakened security environment might collectively lead to a new arms race, conflicts and violence. Deterioration is already discernible in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control where serious breaches of international instruments have occurred in recent years, such as the use of chemical weapons. Accordingly, in the framework of the UNGA, Slovenia will advocate for measures contributing to the enforcement and consistent implementation, preservation and strengthening of relevant instruments, particularly the Chemical Weapons Convention, Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines (Ottawa Convention).

### Continued active support for the UN’s efforts for member states’ contributions of personnel and funding for peace operations aimed at ensuring peace and security in the world

The Peacekeeping Operations Training Center (POTC) is a valuable national contribution to international operations and missions.

### Cybersecurity remains a top priority for strengthening international peace and security

Slovenia will actively participate in the discussions on security challenges and threats posed by ICT, particularly against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic. It will emphasise the role of non-state actors (particularly private enterprises) both from the point of view of the victims of malicious acts and their perpetrators. In addition, it will continue to promote the policy aimed at “bridging the gender digital divide” as well as effective and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes concerning the application of ICT in the context of international security.

## Respect for and progressive development of international law

Slovenia will continue to uphold respect for existing international law as well as for its progressive development and codification. It will also make efforts to promote the implementation of the rule of law at the national and international levels, and respect for the decisions of international courts and international arbitration tribunals in all forums.

Slovenia will closely follow the work of the International Law Commission and global trends, paying attention to the application of international law in tackling contemporary challenges and striving for comprehensive ocean management by adopting a new international instrument.

It will also call for the promotion, respect for, dissemination and implementation of **international humanitarian law** (IHL). For this year’s discussion on the General Assembly’s biennial resolution, Slovenia will prepare a report on the 1977 Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions and relating to the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts.

### Fight against impunity for the most serious violations of international law

Slovenia will continue to support the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and to promote its independence and impartiality as well as its universality and other principles and values enshrined in the Rome Statute. It will also continue to advocate for enhanced and wider cooperation between the ICC and the UN, particularly with the UN Security Council. On the basis of its 2020 contribution, it will actively participate in the discussions on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction as an important and established principle of international law in the fight against impunity and ensuring accountability for the most serious international crimes.

Slovenia will promote the effective implementation of the principle of complementarity, and as a core group member, will continue the work on the initiative for the adoption of a new Multilateral Treaty for Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition for Domestic Prosecution of the Most Serious International Crimes (MLA Initiative).

## New technologies – the digital agenda and artificial intelligence (AI)

Slovenia plans to upgrade its 40-year-long research achievements in AI and become an international leader in translating knowledge and competences in state-of-the-art, ethical and safe AI technologies into user-friendly and practical services and products. A significant milestone on this path is the establishment of the UNESCO-sponsored International Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI) based in Ljubljana.

### Setting up a legal and ethical framework for AI (Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms)

Slovenia is striving for high-quality, transparent and ethical AI enjoying the trust of Slovenian citizens. Designers of such AI guarantee respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms by submitting the technology to human monitoring, ensuring technical reliability, safety and robustness, providing for appropriate data processing, transparency and accountability, yet guaranteeing that the systems supervised by AI remain sustainable and environmentally friendly.

### Building public trust in AI (Trustworthy AI)

Slovenia will draw attention to the fact that a fundamental condition for building public trust is the transparency of algorithms, which implies impartiality, traceability, availability, intelligibility and clearly defined accountability for decisions or actions, particularly in autonomous systems.

### Education for AI (E-skills and e-competences)

Slovenia will promote e-skills and e-competences in AI research and development, in AI-related jobs and among the general population, focusing on the importance of exchanging knowledge and best practices, and stressing North-South cooperation.

## Human rights

Slovenia is a firm advocate of the principle of the universal, inalienable, indivisible, and interdependent and interrelated nature of human rights and will continue to participate in international forums as a strong promoter of a comprehensive approach to all human rights: whether civil and political, economic or social and cultural. Respect for, and protection, enforcement and fulfilment of all human rights for all, regardless of any personal circumstances, remain among Slovenia’s priorities.

### Gender equality, protection of vulnerable groups and non-discrimination (Children and older persons)

Slovenia will continue to uphold the standards and achievements in gender equality. It will continue to advocate for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including through strengthening the implementation of standards enabling women and girls to fully enjoy all human rights and equality in all spheres of social life.

It will also continue to promote the protection and strengthening of the rights of the child, being particularly sensitive to the matter of violence against, and abuse of, children, including in the light of the 20th anniversary of the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding the involvement of children in armed conflicts and the sale and sexual exploitation of children.

As an advocate for a new binding international instrument for the protection of older persons’ rights, Slovenia will continue to strive for the support of the international community for its establishment.

### Declaration of the human right to a healthy living environment

Slovenia, a champion of the right to a healthy living environment, will maintain its pledge to direct its activities into obtaining the necessary support for the declaration of this right. It will above all make every effort to reach consensus among the UN member states, first within the Human Rights Council, in order to have the right eventually declared by the UN General Assembly.

## Green recovery / Sustainable development and climate change / Economic and social themes

### An effective fight against climate change and degradation of the environment

Slovenia will strive for the successful conclusion of negotiations on the beginning of the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement during the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP26). Slovenia underlines that cooperation and fair contributions from all countries are vital for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and tackling the global climate crisis.

### Sustainable water use and management

As part of the suite of measures to counter climate change, Slovenia will devote special attention to the sustainable use and management of natural resources, particularly water. It will bring to the forefront the importance of water as a linking element in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and fulfilling the Paris Agreement commitments, and as a critical factor in peacebuilding and preventing conflicts. Moreover, it will strive for the strengthening of the synergies between water and climate diplomacy and for protecting water resources, including by promoting circular economy. Water will be a key horizontal topic, especially now that the pandemic has revealed the importance of access to clean drinking water in order to preserve global health and ensure food security.

### Transition to a circular economy to preserve natural resources for future generations

Slovenia believes that a circular economy can play a crucial role in a green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and in building more resilient economic systems. Accordingly, it will keep promoting this development model.

### Conservation of biodiversity

Conservation of biodiversity and developing a new global biodiversity framework are key topics in the year that will see both the UNGA75 high-level session and CBD COP15. Slovenia regularly addresses this topic as part of its promotional activities to mark World Bee Day.