



## **Priorities of the Republic of Slovenia for the 74th session of the UN General Assembly**

Slovenia strives to strengthen effective and rules-based multilateralism, with the UN at its core, based on the inextricable link, and complementarity of, peace and security, development, and human rights, and 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 in 2020, Slovenia would like to reiterate its commitment to the UN's purposes and principles.

Slovenia will continue to support the UN's efforts to maintain peace and security and prevent conflicts, to promote the respect for and protection of human rights, and to ensure respect for international law. Special attention will also be given to sustainable development, including environmental protection and the transition to a circular economy.

Slovenia will pursue its priorities also in cooperation with other EU Member States. The promotion of our common values is more effective if the EU stands united in its efforts to make the world a more peaceful and better place.

### **Rule of law and strengthening of international legal system**

Slovenia will continue to advocate respect for international law and the strengthening of the international legal system as the surest guarantee of lasting peace, security and development. In this context, it will stand for the achievement of the sustainable development goal 16 related to peace, justice and strong institutions. We will also advocate, in all UN fora, Slovenia's principled stance on respect for international treaties, respect for and strengthening of the rule of law at the national and international levels, including mechanisms for peaceful dispute resolution, and respect for the decisions of international courts and international arbitration tribunals.

Slovenia will support efforts to end impunity for perpetrators of the most serious crimes, also through the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and promotion of its universal jurisdiction. We will continue to advocate enhanced and wider cooperation between the International Criminal Court and the United Nations, particularly with the UN Security Council. In this context, 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 (the MLA Initiative). In addition, we will participate in the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law.

Slovenia will engage in the discussion on the annual report of the International Law Commission (ILC), in particular on the last report and the draft articles concerning crimes against humanity.

We will advocate consistent respect for international humanitarian law.

### **Human rights**

Slovenia firmly supports the principles of universality, inalienability, indivisibility, interdependence and inter-relatedness of human rights and will continue to promote a comprehensive approach to all human rights, whether civil and political, economic, social and cultural. Respect for and protection, promotion and fulfilment of all human rights for all, regardless of any personal circumstances, remain top priorities for Slovenia.



Slovenia's foreign policy priorities in the sphere of human rights include the empowerment of women and girls, elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, enhancement and promotion of the human rights of older persons, advocating the rights to a healthy living environment and to clean drinking water and sanitation, the rights of children and their well-being, the rights of persons with disabilities, of LGBTI persons, the rights of persons belonging to ethnic and other minorities, the fight against all forms of racism and discrimination, abolition of the death penalty, business and human rights, and the promotion and strengthening of human rights education. Slovenia attaches special importance to enhancing the role of civil society and human rights defenders and pursues the above-mentioned priorities within the entire UN system, advocating a human rights-based approach. It is particularly active within the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council.

Within its priorities, Slovenia will continue to advocate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including by supporting the realization of the highest standard of measures enabling women and girls to fully enjoy all human rights and equality in all spheres of life. This will be especially important in the light of a series of imminent anniversaries (including the 40th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action). Slovenia will – including in the context of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the first United Nations Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security (Resolution 1325) – further strive to implement the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

Slovenia attaches great importance to enhancing the protection and realization of the rights of older persons. In this context, we will strive for the strengthening of the international legal framework for protecting their rights, the elimination of age-based discrimination and the inclusion of older persons. We will pursue these goals also as a member of the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing and its Bureau.

Slovenia will continue to make every effort to strengthen the synergies between environmental protection and the realization of human rights, particularly through advocating the right to a healthy living environment.

In the year of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Slovenia will further direct attention to protecting and strengthening the rights of the child, being particularly sensitive 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.

### **International peace and security and preventive diplomacy**

The protection of civilians and the prevention of and better response to violations of human rights and international humanitarian law will remain at the centre of Slovenia's endeavours for peace and security around the world. Slovenia will advocate a comprehensive approach to preventive action, bearing in mind that the rule of law, respect for human rights and sustainable development – all of them important goals in their own right – are also strong factors of stability. We will support the use of relevant policies and tools, including mediation and responsibility to protect.



Slovenia will advocate women's full and equal representation and participation at all levels of peace processes and security efforts and promote the involvement of youth in seeking solutions to conflicts and other security challenges.

The country will honour its commitments, including the commitment to prevent and eliminate all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, and will continue advocating the victim-centred zero tolerance approach, as well as the highest ethical standards for all personnel wishing to take part in UN peace operations.

In this context, Slovenia supports the efforts to improve training for peacekeeping personnel. Its newly established Centre for Education and Training for Participation in Peacekeeping Operations and Missions will provide educational and training programmes tailored to the specific needs on the ground.

Slovenia will also strive to implement the renewed shared commitments, such as the "Action for Peacekeeping" and the "Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations" initiatives.

We will continue to support the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the newly established Investigation and Identification Team set up to investigate the use of chemical weapons. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its Tenth Review Conference, we will strive for a successful conclusion of the conference and support the strengthening, universality and implementation of the Treaty. Slovenia will support the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines (the Ottawa Convention), including through the work of ITF – Enhancing Human Security. At the fourth review conference of the Ottawa Convention in November, we will advocate the adoption of further measures to achieve a mine-free world. We will also seek to implement other legal instruments related to non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control over exports of strategic goods.

Slovenia will continue to call attention to water, peace and security, with emphasis on protecting water infrastructure during armed conflicts and cross-border cooperation on water management as one of the most efficient mechanisms for building trust and preventing conflict.

### **Sustainable Development**

Slovenia will continue to support the accelerated implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement, including in the framework of further activities following the Climate Summit in September 2019. We will devote special attention to the sustainable use and management of natural resources, particularly water, the promotion of a circular economy, and preservation and protection of biodiversity (including in light of preparations for the Leaders' biodiversity summit in September 2020). Furthermore, we will support bringing into spotlight the interconnection between climate change, water and sustainable development goals. The annual marking of World Bee Day and raising awareness of the importance of pollinators for our ecosystem are also part of promoting biodiversity. And in the context of promoting green diplomacy, Slovenia will encourage a revival of activities of the so-called Green Group.

In keeping with its Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Strategy, Slovenia will make every effort to eliminate all forms of poverty and inequality, promote peaceful and inclusive societies as well as good governance, while advocating equal opportunities and gender equality. To promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we will focus on building partnerships with a variety of development stakeholders, particularly civil society, the private sector and international organisations.



Special attention will be given to eliminating the root causes of migration in developing countries, particularly those related to climate change, security threats, and lack of decent work and jobs. Since the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in December 2018, Slovenia has supported the implementation of the compact and participated in establishing the International Migration Review Forum.

Slovenia also attaches much importance to the artificial intelligence development and the opportunities provided by advanced digital technologies, in particular in the context of achieving sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda, and the impact of digital transformation on the shaping of the future social order. In this regard Slovenia will advocate a regulatory framework for artificial intelligence based on ethics and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.