



**MEDNARODNO RAZVOJNO
SODELOVANJE SLOVENIJE**
SLOVENIA'S DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION

Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia until 2030

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

2030 Agenda	UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
CEF	Center of Excellence in Finance
CEP	Centre for European Perspective
CMSR	Centre for International Cooperation and Development
DAC	<i>OECD Development Assistance Committee</i>
EIB	<i>European Investment Bank</i>
EU	European Union
ODA	Official Development Aid
OECD	<i>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</i>
OFID	<i>OPEC Fund for International Development</i>
UN	United Nations
Resolution	Resolution on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Republic of Slovenia
UNIDO	<i>United Nations Industrial Development Organisation</i>
UNHCR	<i>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i>

Key terms used in the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia until 2030 (Strategy) follow the definitions in the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Republic of Slovenia Act¹.

¹ Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 30/18.

1 SUMMARY

As a developed and responsible state, Slovenia implements development cooperation to foster a more balanced and fair global development and bears its share of responsibility in efforts to eradicate poverty and inequality and to achieve sustainable development. It also fosters the alleviation of humanitarian crises effects, the strengthening of crisis resilience and their prevention and thus also eliminates the root causes of migration.

Slovenia's activities are based on its foreign policy priorities defined in the Declaration on Foreign Policy of the Republic of Slovenia, the values and development guidelines of the Slovenian society defined in the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030, and the development goals of the international community, which are also specified in the UN Agenda 2030 and the New European Consensus on Development of June 2017.

The Strategy was drafted on the basis of the **Resolution** on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, adopted by the Slovenian National Assembly on 26 September 2017 (Resolution). The Strategy specifies objectives and strategic guidelines, operationalises the provisions of the Resolution, and envisages concrete measures for coherent and effective action. It also provides the scope for the expansion and development of this field in compliance with Slovenia's international commitment to strive to increase the share of gross national income for Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.33% by 2030². At the same time, the Strategy is based on the premise that Slovenia will actually implement the above international commitment, and accordingly defines the conceptual and organisational elements of development cooperation.

Since becoming a donor in 2004, Slovenia has managed to set up a **relatively sustainable scope of development and humanitarian aid** and to develop expert skills and a functioning institutional system, including various stakeholders, from government sectors and public foundations to non-governmental sector, civil society and the private sector. Slovenia has become proactive in development cooperation discussions of international institutions, the EU, OECD, UN, World Bank and others.

It has also established itself as a credible and reliable partner with regard to the development needs of partner countries. During the implementation of development cooperation, **challenges and opportunities** arose to upgrade it, to which the present Strategy aims to provide an adequate response. The Strategy also takes into account the findings of the OECD DAC Peer Review of 2017, the Final Assessment of Implementation of the Resolution on Development Cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia for the period until 2015 and the analysis of the National Coordinator for Development Cooperation.

The greater part of Slovenian development and humanitarian aid is channelled through **multilateral development cooperation**, particularly through the EU. As an EU member state, Slovenia is co-shaping the European development policy and also co-financing EU development cooperation by making contributions to the EU budget.

The Strategy provides the framework for Slovenian activities at the multilateral level. At the same time, it provides the scope for enhanced bilateral development cooperation, providing greater visibility as a donor and consequently support of the Slovenian public, and better understanding of the shared responsibility for global development, as well as the possibility of increased engagement of Slovenian stakeholders.

The Strategy envisages a focus of development cooperation and humanitarian aid on geographic and thematic priorities, since dispersed action jeopardises its effectiveness. As a result, at least 40% of country programmable aid must be channelled to specific countries and at least 75% of such assistance to four priority topics. The Strategy connects thematic priorities with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) specified in Agenda 2030, thereby providing the basis for measuring results, and defines the indicators to facilitate the monitoring of progress and effectiveness of implementation.

Slovenia's **geographic priorities** include the Western Balkans, the European Neighbourhood and sub-Saharan Africa, i.e. the least developed countries in the latter region. The Strategy lays down the criteria which,

² In 2017, Slovenia earmarked 0.16% of GNI for development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Source: Slovenia's Development Cooperation Report for 2017, Government of the Republic of Slovenia, November 2018.

depending on international trends, streamline decision-making on future cooperation in individual countries located in these geographic areas.

As regards the **Western Balkans**, Slovenia will continue to cooperate with all partner countries, whereby the region will be receiving between 60 and 70% of country programmable aid, with a particular emphasis on programme partner countries. Later, Slovenia will strive to gradually lower this portion to up to 50%. The time line of increasing the share of country programmable aid for other geographic priorities will depend on the progress achieved by the Western Balkan countries in their EU integration.

Slovenia will continue with, and strengthen, cooperation in the **European Neighbourhood**, including on humanitarian issues. Taking into account the human and financial resources, it will enhance the partnership with other donors and start examining the possibilities for gradual integration into EU Joint Programming in one of the partner countries.

In **sub-Saharan Africa**, Slovenia will continue its development efforts indirectly through the development assistance of the EU and international institutions and directly, but not exclusively, through NGO projects.

The Slovenian development cooperation system is focused on two **cross-cutting issues**: environmental protection and gender equality. Contributions to their implementation are at the core and must be taken into account in all Slovenian development cooperation activities. To facilitate the inclusion of both aspects, guidelines will be drafted for each issue.

The Strategy envisages four main topics of development cooperation. Slovenia will strive for decent work and sustainable and inclusive economic development, and promote employment possibilities for women and youth and the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in partner countries. It will also promote the development of good governance and the rule of law, including by supporting effective, responsible and transparent institutions. It will also promote the sustainable management of natural resources and their effective use, particularly by supporting the transition to a circular economy. The fourth priority includes the promotion of activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change in partner countries.

In light of expanding Slovenian development and humanitarian activities, the Strategy envisages a **strengthening of the institutional system**, and therefore underlines the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the national coordinator, and other government sectors, public foundations and non-governmental sector. To enhance coordination and attain synergy, the Strategy specifies the activities of the Permanent Coordination Group and the Expert Council. In accordance with the focus of the 2030 Agenda, it recognises the need to strengthen partnerships that are vital to attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, the Strategy envisages enhancing the role of the private sector, setting up the strategic partnership and establishing a platform for dialogue between development stakeholders, i.e. Partnership for Development Cooperation.

The Strategy defines the goals and guidelines for **humanitarian aid**, for which Slovenia will allocate at least 10% of available bilateral aid. In doing so, the humanitarian aid will be focused on affected areas located within the geographic priorities, and on enhancing resilience, reconstruction, rehabilitation and on combining humanitarian aid with development activities.

To strengthen public support for development cooperation and humanitarian aid, raise the awareness of decision-makers and improve the readiness of ministries for participation in the financing and implementing of development cooperation, the Strategy provides the scope for on **awareness-raising, global education, communication and on enhancing the evaluation culture**.

The Strategy follows the **Agenda 2030 timeline**. To ensure the best possible implementation, including adaptability to global trends and circumstances both at home and in partner countries, the Strategy envisages the evaluation of implementation every four years, the first planned for 2023. The evaluation will provide the basis for a revised assessment of programme partner countries in terms of potential graduation, EU integration level and other pertinent circumstances, including for the potential adaptation of thematic priorities.

2 GOALS OF SLOVENIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND HUMANITARIAN AID

Development cooperation and humanitarian aid are aimed at achieving prosperity and a decent life in partner countries.

Slovenia will enhance its role in the donor community and the participation of its implementing partners. It will also establish an institutional and organisational framework, enabling a comprehensive approach and combining humanitarian and development action.

In addition, it will strive to raise awareness among the Slovenian public of the shared responsibility for global development, Slovenia's development cooperation and humanitarian aid commitments as a responsible member of the international community and of the importance of development cooperation and humanitarian aid for prosperity, peace and security, a clean global environment and a decent life for all in light of the universal character of SDGs.

2.1 DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Through its development cooperation, Slovenia contributes to attaining the central objectives of Agenda 2030 in partner countries. Partner countries are countries or territories on the DAC list of recipients of ODA to which Slovenia channels its development aid and other official aid. Its activities are based on internationally agreed principles and commitments on the volume of funds earmarked for development cooperation.

The main objective of Slovenia's development cooperation is to help eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and bring about sustainable development in partner countries. These are also the main goals of the international community. By attaining them, the international community is striving to achieve the global objectives classified in Agenda 2030 as 17 SDGs and 169 targets aimed at achieving peace and security, prosperity and a decent life for us and for future generations, through partnership. Agenda 2030 has made sustainable development and its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – the shared responsibility of all.

Different levels of development in partner countries and their environments require a diversified approach to the implementation of development cooperation goals. For greater effectiveness, Slovenia's activities will be limited to a narrow selection of SDGs and their targets. The two cross-cutting issues, i.e. environmental protection and gender equality, are essential to attaining the general objectives.

Within the scope of multilateral and bilateral development cooperation, Slovenia will strive for human rights, equal opportunities, economic development and decent work, good governance and the rule of law, a clean environment, sustainable management of natural resources, particularly water and forests, and the fight against climate change.

2.2 HUMANITARIAN AID

By providing humanitarian aid, Slovenia expresses its solidarity with affected countries and individuals facing extraordinary circumstances as a result of large-scale natural and other disasters or armed conflict. It also helps enhance crisis resilience and prevention. As part of the development cooperation and humanitarian aid defined by the Resolution, the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Republic of Slovenia Act and the Strategy, international humanitarian aid is limited to countries and territories that are on the DAC list of ODA recipients.³

Slovenian humanitarian aid is aimed at saving human lives, preventing and alleviating suffering, and preserving human dignity. Special attention is given to reconstruction and rehabilitation, reducing vulnerability and crisis risk, preventive action, enhancing resilience and establishing links between emergency aid, reconstruction and rehabilitation and development cooperation.

³ The fact that the Resolution, the Act and the Strategy address only some of Slovenia's international humanitarian activities, i.e. those classified as ODA, has no effect on Slovenia's decision to provide assistance to any country in the event of natural or other disasters if the country requests international assistance.

The Resolution specifies the fields of humanitarian activity that will facilitate a response to the most urgent needs of an affected population in crisis situations, including effective links with development cooperation and disaster risk reduction. Slovenia will invest in strengthening resilience in the affected countries to address the root causes of their fragility and vulnerability. In the process, it will respect human rights and strive for their protection. Particular focus will be placed on the cross-cutting issues of gender equality and environmental protection.

In compliance with the national commitment undertaken at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Slovenia will have allocated at least 10% of its humanitarian aid for prevention, disaster risk reduction and strengthening resilience by 2020.

3 GENERAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 ORIENTATIONS

Development cooperation and humanitarian aid activities are based on foreign policy objectives, international arrangements, standards and principles on development cooperation, sustainable development, humanitarian aid, the values and development orientation of Slovenian society and the economy, and on the experience and comparative advantages of Slovenia so far.

3.1.1 FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES

In light of the changed global political, economic and security environment, two new strategic foreign policy documents were adopted in 2015: the Declaration on Foreign Policy of the Republic of Slovenia⁴ and a strategic document on foreign policy⁵. The latter underlines strengthening development cooperation and humanitarian aid, with which Slovenia expresses solidarity and shared responsibility for sustainable development, while at the same time enhancing its own visibility. Development cooperation, including humanitarian aid, has proved to be an important tool in meeting Slovenian foreign policy objectives. As an EU member state, Slovenia also takes into account the Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy⁶, which is also at the core of EU action, and addresses fields that are essential to development cooperation and humanitarian aid, including the issue of strengthening the resilience of countries, economies and societies, and adopting a comprehensive approach to conflicts, crises and human rights, as well as the women, peace and security agenda, gender equality and women's empowerment.

The foreign policy objectives have been relevantly incorporated into development planning documents. The Slovenian Development Strategy 2030⁷ is a comprehensive long-term strategic document recognising development cooperation and humanitarian aid as essential tools in attaining Goal 11 'A safe and globally responsible Slovenia'. Equally important are the following documents: The Strategy of the Participation of the Republic of Slovenia in International Operations and Missions⁸, the Resolution on the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia⁹, the Resolution on the National Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for the 2015–2020 period¹⁰, the National Action Plan of the Republic of Slovenia on Business and Human Rights¹¹ and the Action Plan of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security in the 2018–2020 Period¹². Slovenian foreign policy activities are aimed at achieving coherence of various foreign policy instruments, including development cooperation and humanitarian aid, economic diplomacy and public diplomacy. Although these are independent foreign policy tools, effective development cooperation also generates synergies, e.g. the increased visibility of the donor in partner countries, which can also help enhance economic diplomacy and cooperation with partner countries.

⁴ Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 53/15.

⁵ Slovenia: safe, successful and globally respected. Foreign policy of the Republic of Slovenia, Government of the Republic of Slovenia, July 2015.

⁶ Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe, 2016.

⁷ Slovenian Development Strategy 2030, Government of the Republic of Slovenia, December 2017.

⁸ Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 19/10.

⁹ Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 27/10.

¹⁰ Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 84/15.

¹¹ Government of the Republic of Slovenia, November 2018.

¹² Government of the Republic of Slovenia, November 2018.

3.1.2 INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND STANDARDS CO-SHAPED BY SLOVENIA WITHIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Slovenia has shaped its development cooperation and humanitarian aid system in compliance with the objectives of the international community. Slovenia is actively co-shaping these objectives within international organisations and through participation in the drafting of international documents reflecting the experience and best practices of states and international organisations in the implementation of development and humanitarian aid.

Adopted at the UN summit in September 2015, Agenda 2030 is the basic framework in this regard, changing the paradigm by focusing on global responsibility for sustainable development, to which all countries are committed. It also supports solidarity and the need for participation of all stakeholders in the provision of sustainable development. At the national level, Slovenia linked the process of implementing SDGs with the drafting of the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030. With the present Strategy, Slovenia specifies the goals and targets that it is planning to support through development cooperation in partner countries by 2030. In this context, it needs to be underlined that the Agenda 2030 goals are closely related, which must be taken into account in their implementation.

When planning development cooperation and humanitarian aid, Slovenia is guided by other international commitments such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda¹³ and the conclusions of OECD forums on aid effectiveness¹⁴, and particularly by commitments within the EU. The EU's development cooperation and humanitarian aid are based on chapters of the Treaty on European Union, the New European Consensus on Development¹⁵ of June 2017 and the Cotonou Partnership Agreement¹⁶ concluded between the EU and a group of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries for the 2000–2020 period, which is aimed at reducing poverty and fostering sustainable development in these countries, their gradual integration into the global economy, and cooperation on migration.

The New European Consensus on Development provides the basis for the development cooperation activities of the EU and member states until 2030. In accordance with the Consensus, particular attention needs to be devoted to the balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, taking into account the links between security, migration and development, including between humanitarian aid and development cooperation. Women and youth need to be empowered. The Consensus also fosters the importance of partnerships, including those with the civil society and the private sector.

Particular attention is devoted to the Paris Agreement on climate change¹⁷, which also envisages increased financing of climate measures in partner countries by developed countries by 2020 to USD 100 billion per year; from 2025 onwards, the developed countries will strive to further increase this support. Slovenia also acknowledges the importance of the Lima Declaration on Industrial Development¹⁸, which promotes strong, inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic and industrial growth and the effective integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development to eradicate poverty.

As to humanitarian aid, Slovenia is guided by the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid¹⁹, the international commitments undertaken at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai²⁰ and the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. Slovenia also undertook to meet the commitments under the Grand Bargain on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.²¹ Slovenia is a member of the Food Aid Convention and respects the principles and practices of good humanitarian donorship that are shaped in an informal forum and network of donors called the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) Initiative. Slovenia joined the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies.

¹³ Addis Ababa Action Agenda. UN General Assembly Resolution No. 69/313 of 27 July 2015, United Nations, 2015.

¹⁴ These were held in Paris (2005), Accra (2008), Busan (2011), Mexico City (2014) and Nairobi (2016).

¹⁵ Official Journal of the European Union – Information and Notices, 30 June 2017, C 210, Volume 60.

¹⁶ ACP-EU Partnership Agreement on allocating financial assistance to overseas countries and territories, which are subject to part four of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

¹⁷ Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia – Treaties, No. 16/2016.

¹⁸ United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, 2013.

¹⁹ The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid: the Humanitarian Challenge, 2007.

²⁰ Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, UN, 2015.

²¹ The Grand Bargain, 2016.

3.1.3 VALUES AND STRATEGIC ORIENTATION OF SLOVENIAN SOCIETY, INCLUDING THE ECONOMY

Slovenia's development cooperation and humanitarian aid are based on the values of Slovenian society, which are enshrined in the Constitution, on EU values, UN Charter principles and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Slovenian Development Strategy 2030 is aimed at improving the quality of life for all, which is specified in five strategic objectives: an inclusive, healthy, safe and responsible society; learning for, and through, life; a highly productive economy that creates added value for all; well-preserved natural environment, and a high level of cooperation, competence and governance efficiency. Regarding global economic relations, Slovenia strives for solutions that ensure a higher quality of life and provide the conditions for economic and social progress and development. By implementing SDGs at the national level, Slovenia contributes to capacity building of other developing countries, enabling them to shape their own development model for a decent life.

3.1.4 SLOVENIA'S PAST EXPERIENCE, COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES AND CAPABILITIES IN IMPLEMENTING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND HUMANITARIAN AID

The Resolution and the Strategy were drafted on the basis of experience, comparative advantages and capacity to implement development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

The policies for planning and implementing development cooperation and humanitarian aid are guided by Slovenia's work so far, the activities of its public foundations and NGOs on the ground, and on best practice. The DAC Peer Review²² (2017) and the evaluations of development cooperation with Montenegro (2017) and Cape Verde (2018) identified certain achievements, comparative advantages and challenges, which co-shaped strategic deliberations on future activities.

According to the OECD, Slovenia is a well-respected and credible partner that respects the development needs of partner countries and adapts to them accordingly. This is particularly true of the Western Balkans, which is characterised by the high level of understanding of development needs, as Slovenia shares common cultural, linguistic, historical and institutional ties with the region. Slovenia's comparative advantage is its experience in transition and integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. Slovenia is also actively engaging in efforts to achieve environmental protection and natural resources management, gender equality, a supportive environment for entrepreneurship, demining, mine victims' rehabilitation, reducing the risk of natural and other disasters and responses to them.

Despite the relatively dispersed activities, regarding both thematic and geographic priorities, and the limited budget for bilateral development aid, Slovenia is a visible donor in individual partner countries. It has also established itself as a development partner concerning selected thematic orientations. In the past, it managed to develop high-quality institutions which have become internationally recognised in niche areas. It also has a non-governmental sector that engages in development cooperation activities, the role of which is being strengthened.

Since becoming a donor in 2004, Slovenia has developed its development cooperation and humanitarian aid system and broadened relevant expertise and experience at ministries and public foundations implementing development cooperation and humanitarian aid projects. The volume of development cooperation and humanitarian aid has been maintained at a credible level.

3.2 PRINCIPLES

Slovenian development cooperation and humanitarian aid are based on internationally agreed principles. The main principles include a human rights based approach (HRBA), development cooperation effectiveness (including recipients' ownership of their own development and inclusive partnership for sustainable development) and policy coherence for development. Slovenian humanitarian aid is guided by international humanitarian law, humanitarian principles and good humanitarian donorship principles. Slovenia has zero tolerance for corruption in development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Within the scope of the principles, the two cross-cutting issues are taken into account in all development cooperation and humanitarian aid activities.

²² OECD Development Co-operation Peer Reviews: Slovenia, 2017.

ODA remains vital, although it accounts for only a small part of cross-border flows to partner countries. The greater part of these flows consist of FDIs, migrants' remittances to their countries of origin, and financial instruments of commercial banks and other financial institutions, as well as other official flows, such as export credits. As a result, ODA needs to be strategically steered so that it promotes other flows supporting the development of partner countries. This mobilisation and catalytic effect is an important aspect of ODA strategic planning.

3.2.1 PRINCIPLES OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND HUMANITARIAN AID

3.2.1.1 HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

In compliance with the human rights based approach, the principles of the universality and non-discriminatory nature of human rights should be provided, participation and access to decision-making levers supported, and responsibility and the rule of law advocated, including efforts to achieve transparency and access to information.

The human rights based approach improves development cooperation effectiveness by promoting ownership and thus the sustainability of activities. It also fosters inclusive partnerships, transparency and mutual accountability, as both donor and partner countries are committed to respecting the same universal commitments.

When deciding on development cooperation activities, an attempt is made to identify social groups and individuals who may benefit from concrete activities in the exercise of their human rights. Those responsible need to be trained to fulfil their obligations, and the holders of rights need to be informed of their rights and of how to exercise them.

Activities which include a human rights based approach:

- Contribute to human rights implementation;
- Identify and encourage those responsible (local, regional or national government/administrations) to guarantee the rights that are addressed by the project;
- Address vulnerable population groups;
- Actively involve target groups in planning, implementing and monitoring;
- Promote awareness of the rights of the project target group.

- ➔ The human rights based approach will be encouraged in Slovenia's future bilateral agreements with partner countries.
- ➔ Bilateral projects will consistently take into account this approach. Using standardised forms, the implementing partners will describe their methods, as well as identify, encourage and raise awareness of those responsible for human rights implementation.
- ➔ Slovenia will also advocate for the human rights based approach in multilateral forums.

3.2.1.2 EFFECTIVENESS OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND HUMANITARIAN AID

Slovenia will enhance the effectiveness of development cooperation and humanitarian aid in accordance with the OECD's/GPECD's core principles. It will strive for the following: (i) country ownership, by adequately adapting its approach to the development model of partner countries and to their specific situation and needs; (ii) inclusive partnerships, by supporting the mutual transfer of know how and complementary role of all stakeholders; (iii) achieving long-term effects and focusing on results, and (iv) transparency and accountability of development cooperation.

(i) Country ownership

Countries are primarily responsible for their own sustainable development, which Slovenia fosters through the co-financing of projects which are co-funded by partner countries by using their public procurement and public finance management systems and by the intensive involvement of local stakeholders in planning, financing and implementing. To this end, the coordination of donors on the ground is essential. The predictability of development cooperation and humanitarian aid is a prerequisite to the ownership of development by partner countries, which Slovenia ensures by drafting framework programmes of development cooperation and humanitarian aid and by extending the projects' duration.

- ➔ The National Coordinator will draw up four-year framework programmes with strengthened representation of ministries, specifying geographic and thematic priorities of future activities and streamlining them, and at combining different topics. Gradually, information will be included on specific development goals and the results that Slovenia is aiming to achieve through development cooperation, humanitarian aid and awareness-raising.

Ownership is also achieved through bilateral development cooperation agreements and multi-annual development cooperation programmes tailored to the needs of partner countries.

- ➔ In 2019, Slovenia will launch a gradual renewal of applicable development cooperation agreements, with a particular focus on narrowing down the selection of fields for cooperation in view of thematic priorities, Slovenian comparative advantages and the development priorities of each individual partner country.
- ➔ Slovenia is planning to conclude development cooperation programmes for at least 2 years, specifying the amount of funds and fields of cooperation (as accurately as possible).

Country ownership is also strengthened by the co-financing of projects, whereby some funds are provided by the partner country at the national, regional or local level through its own public procurement and public finance management systems.

- ➔ Slovenia will strive to strengthen systems in partner countries by means of good governance activities. It will support projects of public foundations and NGOs based on local needs, taking into account local legislation and absorption capacities. With a view to stimulating the use of local resources and knowledge, cooperation with local partners is a prerequisite of project financing.

(ii) Inclusive partnerships

Inclusive partnerships are vital to attaining results and to their sustainability. Slovenia has established a wide range of partners for dialogue on further developing the system and enhancing development cooperation and humanitarian aid effectiveness. Slovenia's development cooperation partners may include other donors, which successfully implement projects or programmes together with Slovenia. This, in turn, guarantees more funds, complementary effects and contributes significantly to the visibility or sustainability of these joint projects or programmes.

- ➔ Slovenia will continue to support the integration and role of Slovenian civil society and NGOs as important partners both in policy shaping and planning and in the implementation and evaluation of development cooperation and humanitarian aid.
- ➔ Slovenia will strive to engage the private sector more intensively in development cooperation and humanitarian aid which, however, must go beyond the role of a mere supplier and provider of works and services. Particular attention will be devoted to the private sector's motives, capabilities and potential to the benefit of sustainable development in partner countries, taking into account DAC Recommendations on Untying ODA.

Through the modality of strategic partnership, which was introduced by the new act²³, Slovenia will enhance cooperation and dialogue between financing institutions and strategic partners in shaping relevant solutions for certain thematic and geographic priorities.

- ➔ Slovenia will include local authorities of partner countries in project planning, implementing and monitoring, especially if they are development aid recipients or if they co-finance individual projects.
- ➔ Slovenia will strive for cooperation with other donors, identifying potential partners and fields of cooperation also through political consultations and dialogue. It will enhance its engagement in donor coordination in partner countries, which takes place among the European Commission, the member states and other international stakeholders, and ensure the visibility of its projects.

Another important development cooperation stakeholder and partner is the Slovenian National Assembly, which adopts key development documents, including the Resolution on Development Cooperation and

²³ Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Republic of Slovenia Act, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 30/18.

Humanitarian Aid, the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Republic of Slovenia Act and Slovenia's annual budget, and also specifies the amount of funds earmarked for development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

- ➔ After presenting the annual report on development cooperation and humanitarian aid and on other relevant occasions, a wider debate on the topic will be held at the National Assembly.
- ➔ National Assembly deputies will be invited to take part in regular debates on development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

(iii) Achieving long-term results

To maximise the effectiveness of international development cooperation and humanitarian aid in partner countries, more attention should be devoted to long-term results, to which a focused and regular funding is vital.

- ➔ To ensure the best possible results or long-term effects, development cooperation will focus on thematic and geographic priorities.
- ➔ When approving projects, funding partners will devote special attention to their sustainability.

(iv) Transparency and accountability

Transparency and mutual accountability require public access to information on development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Slovenia has managed to increase transparency over the past years, which it intends to continue in the future.

- ➔ Slovenia will continue its efforts to achieve transparency by publishing information on the planned, current and concluded activities on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other funding partners. As part of regular reporting on ODA, the information will be communicated to the Government and the National Assembly, as well as to the EU and OECD, which publish such statistics online.
- ➔ Slovenia will publish the data on the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) online database²⁴. The data on humanitarian aid for the current year will be published for the first time by 31 March 2019 at the latest, while regular publishing of information on other activities is scheduled to start in 2021.
- ➔ The funding institutions will strive to secure transparency of their implementing partners' operations, also through relevant inspection.
- ➔ At the same time, funding partners, in cooperation with the national coordinator, will regularly update the media and the public on Slovenian development cooperation and humanitarian aid, individual activities, results and best practices.

Mutual accountability among development partners is being enhanced by means of inclusive reviews. Regular annual evaluations, which Slovenia began to implement systematically in 2017, provide important findings and recommendations which will help improve the effectiveness of future development cooperation.

- ➔ With a view to further enhancing mutual accountability, a report on planned and implemented activities, assessment of attained goals and results and joint findings for further cooperation will be drawn up during the final stage of implementation of each separate development cooperation programme with selected partner countries.

3.2.1.3 POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

The policy coherence for development principle obliges Slovenia to respect the development cooperation and humanitarian aid goals in all its policies which can have an impact on developing countries. The principle of policy coherence for development advocates the harmonisation of policies with a view to excluding or at least alleviating their negative side effects on the development of partner countries. Taking into account the objective of harmlessness, it is vital to strive for synergy between different sectoral policies and for maximising their positive effects.

²⁴ International Aid Transparency Initiative, IATI.

A wider concept of policy coherence encompasses policy coherence for sustainable development, including policy coherence for development. While policy coherence for development refers to the provision of coherence at the international level or in relation to developing countries, policy coherence for sustainable development refers to the implementation of coherence also within a certain country with regard to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 goals.

Slovenia will devote special attention to the principle of policy coherence for development. It will strive to achieve horizontal coherence among different ministries and authorities or between development cooperation and humanitarian aid policies and other national policies, vertical coherence within government structures, policy coherence between donor and partner countries, coherence of activities of various organisations, and coordinated action with other donors.

- ➔ In the long run, Slovenia's special focus will be on priorities, which are also EU priorities concerning policy coherence for development²⁵. In cooperation with the National Coordinator, the ministry responsible for each of the priorities will draw up an overview of relevant practices in Slovenia by 2021 and submit recommendations to the Slovenian Government. After that, at least one field of policy coherence for development will be subject to a detailed review each year.
- ➔ By 2019, all ministries will have set up contact points to monitor the development of internal policies in terms of potential effects on partner countries, and caution about potential incoherence between various policies and development cooperation policies. The contact points will report on their findings annually to the Permanent Coordination Group for Development Cooperation, and the National Coordinator will inform the Expert Council for Development Cooperation of the discussion.
- ➔ Raising awareness of policy coherence for development will be carried out at the Permanent Coordination Group for Development Cooperation, among development cooperation implementing partners and the expert public, at line ministries, National Assembly committees and at Government sessions. Activities to raise awareness of the importance of policy coherence for development will be launched by 2019 at the latest.
- ➔ Slovenia will enhance policy coherence for development, i.e. the international aspect of policy coherence implementation, and incorporate it into the national system for monitoring and ensuring policy coherence for sustainable development.

3.2.2 HUMANITARIAN AID PRINCIPLES

Slovenia provides humanitarian aid abroad based on the needs of the affected population. In providing international humanitarian aid, Slovenia is guided by the following internationally recognised principles:

- Humanity: Slovenia is striving to alleviate human suffering and preserve life wherever necessary, with a particular focus on vulnerable social groups; therefore, its assistance is provided in a way that respects and preserves human dignity;
- Neutrality: Slovenia provides humanitarian aid independently of the sides to a conflict, whereby the aid is offered under the same conditions and based on the current needs of the affected population;
- Impartiality: Slovenia provides assistance exclusively on the basis of the needs of the affected population, regardless of the differences within groups or between groups of affected people such as gender, age, race, skin colour, ethnicity, sexual orientation, language, religion, health status and political affiliations;
- Independence: Slovenia provides humanitarian aid with a view to preserving human lives and alleviating the suffering of those affected by humanitarian crises, regardless of political, economic, military or other goals.

In addition to basic humanitarian principles, Slovenia also respects the General Principles of Humanitarian Donorship²⁶, and other cross-cutting principles, such as gender equality and reducing inequalities, environmental sustainability, respect for the rights of vulnerable social groups and the safety of aid recipients and humanitarian workers.

²⁵ These fields are listed in the new European Consensus on Development and include: (i) trade and finance, (ii) environment and climate change, (iii) food security, (iv) migration and (v) security. Attention is also devoted to (i) illicit financial flows and tax evasion and avoidance, and (ii) to promoting trade and responsible investment.

²⁶ The General Principles of Humanitarian Donorship cover: (i) respect for IHL, Refugee Law and Human Rights Law, (ii) Primary Responsibility of the State and efforts to ensure timely funding based on shared responsibility, (iii) Need Based Allocation of Funding, (iv) Beneficiary Involvement, (v) Disaster Risk Reduction, (vi) Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development, (vii) Support and Promote the UN, ICRC and NGOs.

- ➔ Slovenia will be implementing the above principles with contributions to international organisations, particularly those within the UN system, the ICRC and the IFRC, and by funding activities of other humanitarian aid implementing partners, also through participation in project planning, supervision of their implementation and compliance with the Principles.
- ➔ Its activities will be guided by needs identified in humanitarian appeals and needs assessments by international organisations. It will also take into account the needs of individual vulnerable groups, particularly children, women, elderly, persons with disabilities and persons with special needs.
- ➔ To effectively address the humanitarian needs of affected populations, enhance national and local capacities, reduce vulnerability and disaster risk and effectively respond to needs in future humanitarian crises, Slovenia will include the affected population, local infrastructure and organisations in all stages of planning and implementing as much as possible.
- ➔ When planning and implementing humanitarian aid, Slovenia will strive for the effective coordination of assistance at the national and international levels.

3.3 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Environmental protection and gender equality are essential to attaining SDGs of Agenda 2030. As such, they are key to attaining the general goals of development cooperation and humanitarian aid and to attaining results relating to individual thematic priorities. Consequently, these two issues will be mainstreamed through Slovenia's development cooperation.

Therefore, Slovenia will (i) incorporate the two cross-cutting issues in planning, shaping, implementing and evaluating individual activities and development cooperation as a whole; (ii) support measures beneficial to the environment and gender equality when deciding on development cooperation activities; (iii) support the integration of environmental protection and gender equality into the system of values, mission and governance of all development and humanitarian stakeholders and (iv) promote the inclusion of an impact assessment on the environment and on gender equality in the planning and implementing development interventions.

In cooperation with partners, different ways will be found to reshape development interventions or upgrade them with additional ones, so that they can support at least one or both cross-cutting issues. While understanding that responsibility is shared between all implementing partners, NGOs with their expertise in shaping projects and direct access to the target population on the ground may have a special role in ensuring that cross-cutting issues are followed through.

- ➔ All Slovenian development cooperation stakeholders will incorporate cross-cutting issues into their development interventions, including the planning, implementing and evaluating of projects and programmes, regardless of funding institutions.
- ➔ Implementing partners will have to carry out an impact assessment on environmental protection and gender equality in compliance with the DAC methodology and practice of DAC member states in respect of all Slovenian development cooperation and humanitarian aid activities with a value exceeding EUR 10,000, with the exception of activities for providing international rescue assistance in the case of emergency humanitarian needs that require a rapid response.
- ➔ The taking into account of cross-cutting issues will be positively evaluated in selecting development projects; if the cross-cutting issues are not included, implementing partners will have to provide relevant explanation. The taking into account of cross-cutting issues will be monitored by using policy markers according to the DAC methodology.
- ➔ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will foster the exchange of best practices and raise awareness of the importance to take into account the cross-cutting issues among partners, as well as develop guidelines, recommendations and methodologies to assist the funding institutions and implementing partners.
- ➔ Slovenia will allocate voluntary contributions primarily to international organisations which focus on at least one of the cross-cutting issues of Slovenian development cooperation.

3.3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

This cross-cutting issue is aimed at contributing to the preservation and physical improvement (protection and restoration) of the natural environment in partner countries, including the development and strengthening of policies, legislation and institutions focusing on environmental protection. Without adequate attention to the environmental dimensions of development, the excessive use of natural resources and environmental burdening will undermine future development and burden future generations. Consequently, development

cooperation needs to foster prosperity and increase the competitiveness of economies without harming the environment.



After the adoption of Agenda 2030, the environment became an integral part of all efforts to achieve sustainable development.

- Considering the importance of the climate change perspective of environmental protection, the effects of climate change adaptation and mitigation will be assessed with regard to activities in this area, and this assessment will have a direct impact on the value of the environmental marker.
- Slovenia will encourage development partners to pay special attention to the environmental impact of their projects, and to incorporate environmental protection measures in their activities, thus encouraging target groups to change their habits to preserve the environment.

Implementing partners will strive to reduce the ecological footprint of their development cooperation activities through the widest possible use of electronic communication, environment-friendly and possibly locally produced materials and environment-friendly modes of transportation, where applicable, including efforts to save energy and use renewables.

3.3.2 GENDER EQUALITY

The cross-cutting issue is aimed at contributing to gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and at reducing discrimination and inequality.

Agenda 2030 is a new opportunity for the empowerment of women and girls, since, in addition to Goal 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, gender equality has also been incorporated into other relevant SDGs. Only through the full implementation of women's and girls' potential worldwide will it be possible to fully attain the SDGs, so that no one is left behind.



GOAL 5: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

- Slovenia expects development partners to plan and implement activities and evaluations by devoting particular attention to the impact on gender equality, and incorporate measures for its promotion, even if such activities are not directly focused on gender equality or the empowerment of women and girls.

Mainstreaming can be achieved through involving women and men in activities on an equal footing, providing the same benefits for both women and men, and by analysing and collecting gender-disaggregated data. In this way, target groups will be encouraged to change their mindset, habits and the social norms that feed gender stereotyping.

- Within thematic priorities Slovenia will focus on enhancing economic empowerment and independence and thereby the economic and social rights of women, gender-balanced representation in decision-making processes, ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights and address the prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. It will also support local organisations and institutions engaged in this area.

4 THEMATIC PRIORITIES

Slovenia's development cooperation is focused on two sets of thematic priorities and on geographic priorities, in which ODA can be effective, reflecting Slovenia's comparative advantages and capacities, and provides support for partner countries' development efforts. For greater efficiency, Slovenia promotes dialogue and cooperation with partner countries, other donors and international organisations.

- ➔ Slovenia intends to channel at least 75% of country programmable aid²⁷ to four thematic priorities linked to four SDGs.

4.1 PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT, DECENT WORK AND A PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

Slovenian activities in this area will contribute to peace, security and prosperity, as well as a decent life in partner countries and beyond. These efforts will prioritise two SDGs, linking them with other relevant SDGs and their targets. In this respect, education remains vital to attaining both SDGs, and is also instrumental in combating poverty and inequality and contributing to sustainable development.



PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, the creation of decent jobs, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, particularly least-developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries

Decent work for decent pay is the basis for eliminating poverty and inequality. Favourable conditions for business development in partner countries, which is environmentally friendly and offers equal opportunities to both genders²⁸, facilitate better adaptability of the economy of the partner country to the situation in the domestic and international market and foster innovation. Poverty can also be reduced or eliminated by fostering trade and participating in the global economy. As a result, attaining EU standards and thereby cooperation in the European single market is particularly important to partner countries which have a European perspective and an association agreement with the EU. As to countries of sub-Saharan Africa, it is vital that they receive support for entering the global economy on the basis of economic partnership agreements with the EU.

- ➔ Slovenia's activities for this SDG will promote equal opportunities, particularly in employment, for women and youth, and in this respect the private sector development in partner countries.
- ➔ Slovenia will foster the development of a favourable business environment in general, both for industrial development, for MSMEs and for craft trades. It will also support special projects aimed at developing entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship, and the creation of decent and green jobs, especially for young people and women to achieve their economic empowerment.
- ➔ Slovenia will strive for joint efforts of the state administration, public foundations – particularly the Centre for European Perspective (CEP) – the private sector and NGOs to create favourable conditions in partner countries for offering decent work for all.
- ➔ Slovenia will continue its diversified project cooperation with UNIDO²⁹, which enables the transfer of best business practices and technologies to partner countries.
- ➔ At the same time, special attention will be devoted to developing digital entrepreneurship in partner countries, with Slovenia promoting digital education and new digital skills, which will be vital to bridging the gap created by automated jobs.
- ➔ Slovenia acknowledges the exceptional importance of education, particularly of women and girls, and thereby the acquisition of knowledge and skills required for decent jobs and jobs with high added value.
- ➔ Slovenia will transfer best practices, skills and technology of its development partners on the basis of the usefulness of projects for the sustainable development of a partner country.

²⁷ Country programmable aid is bilateral development aid without humanitarian aid, general budget support and in donor categories of aid (administrative costs, sustenance of refugees, imputed student costs, development awareness and debt relief).

²⁸ Consequently, activities in this area are also connected with 5.a, 5.b and 5.c targets of Agenda 2030.

²⁹ In accordance with the Agreement on Cooperation between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and an Administrative Arrangement with regard to Special-Purpose Contributions to the Industrial Development Fund, which were concluded in Vienna on 22 June 2005, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 94/05.



PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL, AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Support for the rule of law and good governance are vital features of Slovenian development cooperation, preventing conflicts and contributing to peace and security, the rule of law and democracy, public sector development and administrative governance, and countering corruption.

Slovenia has special comparative advantage in the field of European integration of the Western Balkan countries, as its bilateral action complements the EU's activities within the scope of EU external action instruments.

- ➔ Slovenia will continue to promote the rule of law and good governance development by providing technical assistance to partner countries through direct cooperation between state administrations, through the Centre for European Perspective (CEP) and the Center of Excellence in Finance (CEF), as well as other national institutions. It will also contribute to equal opportunities, including gender equality, particularly by supporting the activities of local organisations and institutions promoting gender equality in partner countries, and strive for gender-balanced decision-making, also relating to peace and security. Particular attention will also be devoted to young people, who are vital to developing peaceful and open societies. In this context, Slovenia will also address violence against women and girls.

4.2 SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

By providing support to partner countries in the fight against climate change and in the sustainable management of natural resources, Slovenia is both willing and able to contribute to sustainable development and growth in partner countries and thus to a healthy planet, food security and prosperity in partner countries and beyond. These efforts will engage numerous stakeholders, both national institutions, the non-governmental sector and the private sector. In this respect, Slovenia will particularly address the following SDGs and targets:



ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

Waste prevention and preparation for its reuse and recycling generate substances or materials from existing, already produced resources, thereby reducing the need for natural resources, and consequently reducing energy consumption and negative effects on the environment.

- ➔ Slovenia will promote the sustainable management of natural resources and their effective use, particularly by supporting the transition to a circular economy, in which nothing is wasted.
- ➔ Slovenia will encourage adequate waste management in partner countries which, in accordance with waste hierarchy, prioritises waste prevention, and only then their re-use, recycling, recovery and disposal as a last resort. These efforts will also raise the target group's awareness of the importance of sustainably managing natural resources and their effective use, as well as promote the effective and sustainable use of farmland. Attention will also be devoted to the challenge of reducing food waste.

By fostering the transition to circular economic models for natural resource management, Slovenia will also promote other SDGs, particularly those related to water resources. Due to pollution and especially climate change, water is becoming a valuable asset, which is less and less taken for granted. Access to water entails numerous global challenges, from food security, health and sustainable agriculture to the provision of peace. Limited access to water is a source of many conflicts, so water is not only an important development factor, but also an important factor of international stability and a co-shaper of social relations.

- ➔ Development cooperation will be devoted to sustainable water management³⁰, achieving and preserving good surface water and groundwater status, managing flood risks and droughts and taking measures to adapt to climate change. The cooperation will also focus on assistance with water infrastructure construction and the transfer of skills for enhancing institutional capacities, education and training on water supply and wastewater management, and on the shaping of policies and management in the water sector. These activities will complement wider efforts to enhance international initiatives to link water-related challenges to human rights, peace and security.



TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS EFFECTS³¹

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to the goal of jointly mobilising \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency of implementation, and fully operationalise the Green Climate Fund through its capitalisation as soon as possible.

Being part of the developed world, Slovenia will follow the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities to contribute adequate funds for international climate action aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change in partner countries, which also includes the transfer of relevant technologies and strengthening administrative capacities in this area. To this end, Slovenia will also use the funds of the Climate Change Fund of the Republic of Slovenia to support climate measures in partner countries.

- ➔ Slovenia will help partner countries incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation measures into national policies, strategies and plans, and set up mechanisms for emission trading and other instruments for funding climate action.
- ➔ Slovenia will prioritise projects that simultaneously address both adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, as well as projects providing comprehensive solutions to climate related challenges in energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, as regards the reduction of food carbon footprint and sustainable forest management.
- ➔ In light of implementing the commitments assumed under the Paris Agreement, Slovenia will no longer finance projects promoting the use of fossil fuels.

5 GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITIES AND PARTNER COUNTRIES

The Slovenian geographic priorities of development cooperation and humanitarian aid include the Western Balkans, the European Neighbourhood and sub-Saharan Africa, with particular attention to the least-developed countries in the latter region. The method and intensity of development cooperation and humanitarian aid in these regions depend on political, economic and other bilateral relations, as well as on the capacities of implementing partners, development levels and needs, and on partner countries' absorption capacities. The latter mean the environment in the widest sense in the partner country, which enables adequate use of received funds.

With certain countries, development cooperation is carried out on the basis of agreements³² specifying the priorities and objectives of the cooperation and providing the grounds for implementing bilateral technical assistance programmes. Development cooperation will be further strengthened in countries which meet the requirements for concluding a multi-annual development cooperation programme. At least 40% of country programmable aid will be earmarked for such programmes, with the remainder channelled to other geographically prioritised countries and to projects that correspond with thematic priorities, are regionally relevant or may be re-applied to other locations. As a general rule, development and humanitarian projects

³⁰ Also in connection with the efforts of partner countries to attain 6.a and 6.b targets.

³¹ Recognising that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is the most important intergovernmental framework for negotiations on a joint response to climate change

³² Currently applicable development cooperation agreements are concluded with Western Balkan countries, Moldova and Cape Verde.

that are not part of the geographic priorities defined in the Resolution are not financed, unless it is required for special reasons based on Slovenian foreign policy or other national priorities.

Slovenia selects partner countries for development cooperation and humanitarian aid on the basis of the following criteria, which are not listed in order of priority:

- Location of a potential partner country in one of the three geographic priorities as defined in the Resolution;
- Foreign policy interest in developing political, economic and other relations with a potential partner country;
- Slovenian diplomatic mission in the country and vice versa, or established diplomatic coverage between the two countries;
- Coherence between a partner country's key priorities or needs and thematic priorities of Slovenian development cooperation;
- Continued presence of Slovenian implementing institutions and NGOs or their links with local partners and established business connections;
- Development cooperation agreements and past positive experience with development cooperation with the partner country;
- Cooperation agreements in individual thematic areas;
- Relevance of security situation, both in terms of a safe environment for activities and the assessment of possibilities for contributing to stabilisation through development cooperation;
- Presence of other donors and thus added value and impact on the visibility of Slovenian development cooperation activities;
- A country has been qualified to the category of those "most in need".

To conclude a multi-annual bilateral development cooperation programme, the essential general criteria include operational diplomatic representation in the partner country, coherence with thematic priorities of Slovenian development cooperation and the interest of the partner country in concluding a bilateral programme with Slovenia. The latter is vital in case of major investment projects which must be co-funded by partner countries.

A review of cooperation by individual geographic priorities in terms of the general criteria of the Slovenian development cooperation is included in Annex 4.

Based on the above, it is possible and sensible to conclude agreements, particularly multi-annual development aid programmes, particularly in the Western Balkans.

- ➔ To enhance the visibility, focus and effects of development cooperation, Slovenia will strive to be ranked among the top five bilateral donors, at least in programme partner countries.
- ➔ Depending on the Western Balkan countries' EU integration, Slovenia will draft a strategy of gradual withdrawal from development cooperation with these countries, enhancing its presence in the remaining two priority regions. To this end, it will foster relations, acquire experience and enhance partnerships with international organisations and other donors.
- ➔ At least 40% of Slovenia's country programmable aid will be channelled to programme partner countries. Should a certain country be graduated among donors, Slovenia will channel its development cooperation efforts to other countries in the region. At a later stage, the development cooperation and humanitarian aid will be redirected from the Western Balkans to the countries of the European Neighbourhood and sub-Saharan Africa.

5.1 WESTERN BALKANS

The Western Balkans occupy a central position in Slovenia's development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Slovenia's relationship with Western Balkan countries is characterised by a strategic interest and readiness to contribute to the stability, peace and security as well as to the economic and social development of the region. Slovenia supports the endeavours of Western Balkan countries to join the EU, which is crucial for the region's stability and progress.

Bilateral relations between Slovenia and the Western Balkan countries are at a high level and cover various areas. Diplomatic relations are dynamic and diversified, while economic cooperation is very intensive, with a strong presence of Slovenian businesses; the developmental priorities of these countries correspond to a large

extent with Slovenia's development cooperation priorities. Slovenia's experience in implementing development cooperation in the region has been very positive.

With its interventions in the Western Balkans, Slovenia has contributed to enhanced regional cooperation, also in accordance with the New European Consensus on Development, while supporting the role of middle income countries in the protection of the global public good and sustainable development (except for Kosovo, all partner countries are middle income countries). Slovenian interventions contribute to the development of the geographic and thematic areas which show considerable lack of progress. Based on good bilateral cooperation with the Western Balkan countries, Slovenia will adapt its development cooperation projects to current development needs.

- a) Slovenia's advantages and grounds for development cooperation and humanitarian aid:
 - Slovenia's experience in transition, as well as in the EU and NATO accession process;
 - knowledge of the region and presence of Slovenian development stakeholders;
 - historical, cultural and linguistic ties;
 - wide network of diplomatic missions;
 - development cooperation agreements and multi-annual cooperation programmes³³.
 - b) Areas of activity:
 - good governance: support for the EU accession process in the countries of the region, i.e. adjusting the standards and legislation to the European *acquis*, strengthening administrative capacity and institution building and assistance in the EU negotiations; development of good governance, the rule of law and civil society; support for the development of democracy, the exercise of human rights, women's empowerment and gender equality;
 - economic growth, productive employment and decent jobs for all: efforts will focus on the eradication of poverty, promotion of social progress and economic development, support for the establishment of institutional conditions for equal development, encouraging entrepreneurship among young people and fostering a favourable environment for the development of MSMEs;
 - support for the transition to a circular economy, the effective management of natural resources, including access to drinking water and waste management, and the fight against climate change;
 - implementation of the initiative Positive Agenda for Youth in the Western Balkans and other projects aimed at young people: enhancing the prospects of young people in the Western Balkan countries, and ensuring alternative options and possibilities for activities, success, employment and life in the countries of the region; the acquisition of relevant education, knowledge and experience, fostering mutual ties and conciliation.
 - c) Forms of cooperation and implementing partners:
 - technical assistance provided either directly between state authorities or through CEP and CEF or other implementing partners; attention will be devoted to attracting new stakeholders from the public and private sectors;
 - building public infrastructure to improve the conditions for development, ensure prosperity for all population groups and promote environmental protection;
 - tuition fee waivers and scholarships for secondary and vocational education, graduate and post-graduate studies, thereby contributing to higher levels of education of young people in partner countries and improved employability, as well as to the sustainable development of partner countries;
 - enhancing civil society with NGO projects, especially in women's empowerment, strengthened prospects for young people in the region and the raising of awareness of new public infrastructure users.
- ➔ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia are Slovenia's development cooperation partner countries in the region. Pursuing the general criteria and the aim of ensuring predictability, sustainability and effectiveness, Slovenia will continue its development cooperation interventions in these countries, especially in thematic areas with positive results, and respond to the needs of partner countries.
- ➔ Slovenia will encourage complementary development interventions of different development stakeholders and their cooperation for the best possible development results.

³³ Slovenia has concluded development cooperation agreements with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia. With Macedonia and Montenegro, Slovenia concludes multi-annual cooperation programmes.

- ➔ Additionally, it will strive to raise the profile of its projects in the Western Balkan countries and awareness among Slovenian and the local population of its development assistance.
- ➔ In order to encourage regional cooperation, Slovenia will support events addressing current EU development topics in the region and topics related to European structures.
- ➔ Slovenia's bilateral activities will be adapted to the progress of EU accession and negotiation processes in individual countries.
- ➔ In accordance with its strategic interests in the Western Balkans, Slovenia will pursue its projects addressing the most pressing development challenges in the region, which follow the agreed guidelines and actions plans under the Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia for the Western Balkans.
- ➔ It will strive to complement EU development cooperation activities, and enhance local interventions related to EU projects.
- ➔ Slovenia will strive to conclude multi-annual cooperation programmes with programme partner countries.

The current programme partner countries are Montenegro and Macedonia.

Montenegro: until its accession to the EU, enhanced cooperation will focus mostly on accession topics; additionally, Slovenia will pursue cooperation in public finance and public environment infrastructure, as well as student exchange, as per the bilateral agreement on education. According to the current strategic documents of Montenegro and the available funds, future cooperation will centre on the following areas: good governance; the promotion of entrepreneurship and progress in fostering a favourable business environment; sustainable water management, including the management and cleaning of wastewaters; waste prevention and waste treatment; renewable energy sources and energy efficiency; gender equality and equal opportunities, including for young people, in the labour market. By 2020 at the latest, a joint committee will be formed in accordance with the applicable agreement on development cooperation. Slovenia will pursue its efforts to regularly conclude multi-annual development cooperation programmes.

Macedonia: until its accession to the EU, enhanced cooperation will focus on accession topics. Slovenia will support Macedonia's social and economic development, with a special emphasis on fostering a favourable business environment and developing agriculture, and on investment in public infrastructure. Special attention will also be devoted to strengthening the rule of law and respect for fundamental freedoms and rights, with increased focus on gender equality and women's participation in the labour market. Untapped potential for development lies in the fields of low-carbon economy and climate change resilience, where Slovenia and Macedonia could further enhance development cooperation. Slovenia will pursue the existing forms of cooperation in student exchange. It will strive to form a joint committee in accordance with the bilateral agreement on development cooperation, by 2020 at the latest, and to conclude a multi-annual development cooperation programme.³⁴

The list of programme partner countries may change in light of regional circumstances and available Slovenian funds.

With other Western Balkan countries, enhanced cooperation will continue mostly on EU accession.

5.2 EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD

The European Neighbourhood comprises countries which are included in the European Neighbourhood Policy³⁵. Most European Neighbourhood countries are poorer than the Western Balkan countries, and the stabilisation of this region would have a significant impact on international peace and security. Especially as concerns the Eastern part of the European Neighbourhood, there is a pronounced interest in heightened cooperation by Slovenian businesses. In the southern part of the Neighbourhood, the two major challenges are the regional crisis caused by the situation in Syria, and the related refugee crisis with repercussions in North Africa. Given the limited human capacities and the limited diplomatic presence, cooperation with individual countries will be strengthened in partnership with other donors and international institutions.

- a) Slovenia's advantages and grounds for development cooperation and humanitarian aid:
 - EU and OSCE membership;

³⁴ The last multi-annual development cooperation programme with Macedonia was concluded for the 2013–2015 period.

³⁵ The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) covers relations between the EU and 16 closest neighbouring countries to the east and south. In the south: Algeria, Egypt, Israel (not ODA-eligible), Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia; in the east: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

- potential for transferring activities and best practice in development cooperation from the Western Balkans;
 - experience in humanitarian aid, especially in mine action, rehabilitation and psychosocial assistance, in particular for children.
- b) Areas of activity:
- humanitarian aid will focus on mine action, providing rehabilitation and psychosocial assistance, also in relation to refugees, with the possibility of upgrading the interventions with stabilisation activities and the reconstruction of public infrastructure;
 - good governance: support with democracy and civil society building, where Slovenia complements EU activities; in the Eastern part of the European Neighbourhood, it complements OSCE activities;
 - economic growth, productive employment and decent work for all: measures to support establishing institutional foundations for equal development and encourage entrepreneurship among the young, the transfer of technologies, and foster opportunities to acquire the necessary know-how for jobs with high added value;
 - support for the transition to a circular economy and the fight against climate change, both at the institutional and implementing levels, with concrete projects.
- c) Forms of cooperation:
- technical assistance provided by CEP and CEF, and in the case of countries with a bilateral agreement on development cooperation,³⁶ directly by state authorities and through UNIDO;
 - scholarships for post-graduate study at higher education institutions in Slovenia, awarded through public calls by the Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund of the Republic of Slovenia;
 - infrastructure and other projects concerning the circular economy and climate change, also in the form of public-private partnerships;
 - humanitarian mine action and rehabilitation projects through ITF Enhancing Human Security and NGOs, and humanitarian contributions to international organisations, especially for emergency humanitarian aid, as well as for stabilisation and reconstruction.

Slovenia's diplomatic presence in the European Neighbourhood is limited. The Slovenian embassy in Kiev also covers Moldova, while the embassy in Moscow covers Belarus. Ukraine and Georgia have resident embassies in the Republic of Slovenia. In the Southern European Neighbourhood, Slovenia has embassies in Egypt and Israel, and a mission in Palestine, where ITF Enhancing Human Security and former president Danilo Türk's Let Them Dream Foundation have been very active.

- ➔ Due to crises and the consequences of armed conflict, the refugee crisis and climate change, the region will need long-term enhanced international assistance and attention, both in the east and the south. Slovenia will join international efforts to stabilise and develop this area by providing humanitarian aid in the form of psychosocial assistance and rehabilitation to victims, human rights projects, refugee assistance and women's empowerment, as well as through activities of the EU and international organisations.
- ➔ In the Eastern European Neighbourhood, cooperation with partner countries will focus mostly on sharing experience in the implementation of reforms during EU accession and on humanitarian aid, rehabilitation and psychosocial assistance for children, which has been successfully in place since the early days of Slovenia's development cooperation.
- ➔ At the same time, Slovenia will enhance its partnerships with other donors, and start examining the possibilities for gradual integration into EU Joint Programming in one of the partner countries.
- ➔ Slovenia will provide emergency humanitarian aid according to humanitarian needs in the European Neighbourhood.

³⁶ Currently, only Moldova.

5.3 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

In sub-Saharan Africa, Slovenia has contributed to the eradication of poverty and inequality and to sustainable development, especially in the least developed countries, through international organisations and funds where it actively promotes development assistance programmes targetting these countries. The EU dedicates special attention to Sub-Saharan Africa, allocating almost a third of ODA from the EU budget to this region in 2016. The interventions focus on ensuring prosperity for the local population and the conditions for a decent life, thereby also addressing the root causes of migration.

- a) Slovenia's advantages and grounds for development cooperation and humanitarian aid:
 - membership of the EU and international financial institutions;
 - network of local partners of Slovenian NGOs in some countries;
 - active African diaspora in Slovenia.
- b) Areas of activity:
 - decent jobs;
 - support for the transition to a circular economy and the fight against climate change;
 - humanitarian – development nexus, with a special focus on migration.
- c) Forms of cooperation:
 - contributions to international organisations, funds and international financial institutions: Slovenia implements development cooperation in the least-developed sub-Saharan countries through multilateral organisations, including through EU;
 - NGO projects: given the lack of resident diplomatic missions, Slovenia draws on NGO experience and their network of local partners to implement bilateral development aid to the poorest and most vulnerable populations; through strategic partnerships foreseen by the new act, Slovenia will strengthen NGOs capacities, also for emergency response;
 - humanitarian contributions to international organisations for specific humanitarian crises.

Slovenia has an Agreement on Development Cooperation with Cape Verde. The 2018 evaluation of development cooperation with Cape Verde showed that the telemedicine project was successful and sustainable. Further enhanced cooperation with Cape Verde in the form of multiannual cooperation programmes is not foreseen in the medium term. The possibilities to provide bilateral aid to sub-Saharan countries in for institutional capacity-building lie mainly in regional partnerships.

Development and humanitarian interventions in sub-Saharan Africa are complemented with wider political, economic and cultural initiatives, such as the long-established Africa Day conference connecting Slovenian stakeholders with African partners, thus being an excellent opportunity for discussing development opportunities in Africa and raising general awareness of the importance of development cooperation and humanitarian aid in this part of the world.

- ➔ While encouraging the continuation or upgrade of projects traditionally implemented in Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, Slovenia will also strive to transfer these projects to new local environments where tried and tested methods can yield better results without significantly increasing costs.
- ➔ In sub-Saharan Africa, Slovenia will promote cooperation between the non-governmental and private sector, with a special focus on mobilising additional private funds for development, technology transfer and innovation.
- ➔ In view of eradicating poverty and inequality and ensuring sustainable development, Slovenia will take a comprehensive approach to key challenges by cooperating with international organisations and by directly addressing the poorest and most vulnerable groups. To provide emergency assistance in the least-developed sub-Saharan countries, it will cooperate with the World Food Programme.
- ➔ Development cooperation will be an important factor in decisions on new diplomatic missions in Sub-Saharan Africa, since such representation could significantly increase the possibilities of enhancing development cooperation in this region.

6 INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AID

Humanitarian crises may be triggered by large-scale natural and other disasters or armed conflict. Despite a constantly increasing volume of humanitarian aid, the gap between needs and means allocated is increasing by the year. To rise to the current humanitarian challenges effectively, leaps in efficiency, disaster risk reduction, improving resilience and communication will be necessary.

The programming of regular humanitarian and post-conflict assistance will continue to be part of framework programmes. In response to international community appeals and in agreement with the Ministry of Finance, funds for humanitarian aid in the aftermath of natural and other disasters and sudden-onset humanitarian crises are generally provided from the budgetary reserve, subject to Government approval.

Emergency assistance is usually channelled through international organisations based on the global vulnerability and crisis assessment and evaluation of humanitarian needs, and through the activities of the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief. Other major implementing partners of Slovenia's humanitarian aid include ITF Enhancing Human Security and NGOs selected in calls for proposals for project financing.

- ➔ Slovenia will allocate at least 10% of its available bilateral ODA to humanitarian aid.
- ➔ Slovenia will plan its donations to selected organisations and make pledges at donor conferences for at least two, and usually three, years in advance.
- ➔ Slovenia will allocate at least 10% of its humanitarian aid for preventive action, disaster risk reduction and strengthening resilience. In this context, priority will be given to better disaster preparedness and effective responses of local communities.
- ➔ In terms of planning and response, Slovenia will strive for a more comprehensive approach to any humanitarian crisis by pooling humanitarian contributions via international organisations and activities of Slovenian implementing partners, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, ITF Enhancing Human Security, and NGOs. By 2022, at least 50% of humanitarian contributions via international organisations will be channelled in response to crises to which Slovenia is also responding through bilateral interventions.
- ➔ To enhance its emergency response, as a priority, and funds permitting, Slovenia will conclude a strategic partnership with an NGO (or several partners) by 2020 at the latest.
- ➔ To guarantee the more effective allocation and use of funds by international organisations, Slovenia will mainly use softly earmarked contributions to target countries.
- ➔ Contributions to international organisations for sub-Saharan Africa will focus on ensuring food security through the World Food Programme (WFP), for the Middle East for care for children and protection of refugees through the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).
- ➔ To enhance emergency responses, Slovenia will support the operation of the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), depending on the amount of funds available. It will conclude a strategic partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which will be at the core of its humanitarian contributions, and encourage medium-term links with ITF Enhancing Human Security.
- ➔ In accordance with the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit commitments and the Grand Bargain, at least one annual contribution through an international organisation will be made in the form of cash-based assistance.
- ➔ In the event of major natural and other disasters and sudden-onset humanitarian crises (particularly in the Western Balkans), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will strive for rapid mutual warning of needs, plans, means and the coordination of activities, also with diplomatic missions, NGOs and representatives of local communities and relevant professional associations.
- ➔ A coordination point will be established with the strategic partner for humanitarian aid to coordinate the donations of the Slovenian private sector in the event of natural and other disasters and sudden-onset humanitarian crises in the Western Balkans.

7 MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND HUMANITARIAN AID

Multilateral development cooperation and humanitarian aid take up a large share of Slovenia's development cooperation, amounting to between 57% and 70% of ODA in the 2008–2017 period ³⁷. The bulk of this comprises contributions to the EU budget stemming from its membership obligations, which are used in part to cover EU development cooperation and humanitarian aid interventions.

For Slovenia, engagement in multilateral organisations is an opportunity to promote an inclusive policy based on multilateral dialogue among equals and to tap into the richness of expert resources, and the wide institutional network and technical infrastructure at the global level which allow more effective development cooperation and humanitarian aid. It is also a chance to learn and develop new ways of operating in this area, conclude partnerships with other donors and offer Slovenia's competitive advantages and Slovenian experts' know-how in view of addressing global issues in the field.

As a member of international organisations engaged in development cooperation and humanitarian aid, Slovenia has participated in their governance, co-shaped their strategic orientations and contributed to their functioning by paying core contributions (membership fees) and offering its resources and voluntary contributions. In doing so, Slovenia pursues its foreign policy goals and priorities, as well as development cooperation thematic and geographic priorities. The decisions to support these organisations with voluntary contributions are based on assessment whether and how effectively the organisations meet their goals, previous experience in cooperating with them, the significance of additional engagement within the organisation (impact assessment), parallel opportunities that add value compared to previous practices, and on an independent assessment of the organisations and their functioning.

7.1 UNITED NATIONS

Slovenia's work within the UN traditionally focuses on the eradication of poverty, the protection and promotion of human rights, sustainable development, the promotion of human security and the human-centred approach, conflict prevention, and the enhancement of, and respect for, international law and the goals and principles of the UN Charter.

Within the available possibilities for policy shaping, Slovenia participates in:

- discussions about the selected topics within the UNGA, its Second (economic and financial affairs) and Third Committees (social, humanitarian and cultural affairs), ECOSOC and its ancillary bodies, the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and other related processes, sessions, meetings and activities;
- functioning of humanitarian parts of the UN in Geneva, in particular the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Slovenia contributes to the operation and financing of UN peacekeeping missions. It also cooperates with UNIDO and IAEA when implementing bilateral development cooperation programmes. For speedy and efficient humanitarian interventions in the field, Slovenia's major partners are UN agencies, funds and commissions (especially UNHCR, WFP, UNRWA and UNICEF), to which Slovenia mainly channels earmarked contributions for specific humanitarian crises (bilateral ODA).

- ➔ Slovenia will continue to cooperate with like-minded UN member states, advocating an integrated approach to address development, humanitarian, demographic and climate challenges, as well as those related to peace and security. Moreover, it will promote diversified cooperation with different categories of developing countries, stressing the importance of MSMEs as crucial partners for sustainable development, promoting gender equality and striving for policy coherence for development.
- ➔ Slovenia will use the mechanism of voluntary review of Agenda 2030 implementation at the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development to evaluate its progress in development cooperation and learn from other member states.

³⁷ Source: Slovenia's International Development Cooperation Reports from 2008 to 2017, Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

- ➔ Slovenia will offer voluntary contributions to those agencies, funds and committees which operate in accordance with Slovenia's priorities, especially in relation to the least developed countries, particularly the UN WOMEN, UNFPA and UNDP. Depending on the funds available, Slovenia will strive to conclude a strategic partnership with one of these institutions after 2022.

7.2 ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

For Slovenia, the membership of the OECD since 2010 and DAC since 2013 is an important stepping stone to evolve and increase the efficiency of development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

Slovenia's membership of DAC is also an excellent opportunity for learning and progress, especially through the peer review mechanism, by which deep insight can be gained about the system used by other countries. Between autumn 2016 and spring 2017, Slovenia underwent its first peer review. The review recommendations³⁸ for further progress serve as guidelines regarding the topics covered and as indicators showing the similarities, advantages and uniqueness of Slovenia compared to other donors.

Slovenia underscores the need for a comprehensive approach to development within the OECD,³⁹ and expects better coordination between DAC and subcommittees. It expects DAC to play an active role within the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation and to strengthen its cooperation with different development stakeholders. Moreover, decision-making within DAC should reflect the views of all member states in an equal, transparent and consensual manner.

- ➔ Slovenia will be active within DAC, its Working Party on statistics (WP STAT), the Network on Environment and Development Co-operation (ENVIRONET), the Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET), the Network on Development Evaluation (EVALNET) and in the OECD Development Centre.
- ➔ In the shaping of DAC policies, Slovenia will call for cooperation and the sharing of best practice, especially through thematic reviews, as well as on engaging the private sector in development cooperation, and improving communication on results. Humanitarian and development cooperation must address water and food security, as well as social security. Slovenia will pay particular attention to gender equality and women empowerment.
- ➔ As National Coordinator, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will promote the long-term education and training of its staff on DAC topics, also by involving leading staff in the DAC peer-review process.

7.3 EUROPEAN UNION

Collectively, the EU and its member states are the largest global donors of ODA. More than half of Slovenia's ODA is allocated through the EU budget and the extra-budgetary European Development Fund. Cooperation within the EU forms the greater part of Slovenia's multilateral development cooperation. In accordance with its priorities, Slovenia is actively engaged in discussions on global development and humanitarian issues, and participates in shaping the policies and strategic orientations of EU development policy.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) supports the EU's foreign policy goals. Around 10% of its portfolio is dedicated to projects outside the EU, mostly development cooperation projects. For Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific region, it secures its own funding through guarantees provided by all member states, i.e. EIB shareholders. Furthermore, the EIB manages several trust funds, including the Economic Resilience Initiative (ERI) Fund and, in cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Western Balkans Joint Fund. Slovenia contributes to both.

- ➔ As an EU Member State, Slovenia is actively engaged in implementing the New European Consensus on Development and the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, and will continue to add to the achievements of the EU in development cooperation as a crucial element of the EU's external action.
- ➔ In EU policy making, Slovenia will connect with like-minded member states, and within priority areas, call for policy coherence for (sustainable) development, and the inclusion of gender mainstreaming and environment protection in EU development cooperation. Slovenia will advocate and promote the inclusion of civil society and the private sector, especially MSMEs as equal and critical partners for development.

³⁸ OECD Development Co-operation Peer Reviews: Slovenia, 2017.

³⁹ Cooperation within the DAC development cluster, Development centre and Directorate for development cooperation.

- ➔ Slovenia supports efforts at simplification, complementarity and synergies, both within institutions and among them, especially in development financing.
- ➔ Slovenia will continue to contribute to the EIB trust funds, such as Economic Resilience Initiative (ERI) Fund and the European Western Balkans Joint Fund. It will strengthen its cooperation with, and participation in, EIB management bodies.
- ➔ In accordance with the available funds and capacities, Slovenia will seek opportunities to participate in EU joint programming, especially in the European Neighbourhood.
- ➔ Slovenia will enhance its participation in the steering committees of EU instruments and funds.
- ➔ Slovenia will observe the creation of new funds and, following a careful assessment, participate in the funding and implementation.
- ➔ Slovenia will strive to amend EU tendering provisions to ensure the possibility for smaller and new implementing partners to participate in EU development cooperation and humanitarian aid.
- ➔ It will also strive to increase the participation of Slovenian implementing partners, and support them in gaining access to delegated cooperation, following the example of the Center of Excellence in Finance, and encourage them to bid in EU calls for applications.
- ➔ Slovenia will enhance its activities within the informal group of EU member states that organises seminars for companies, and the activities of the contact point at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia to the EU in Brussels.
- ➔ Slovenia will strengthen its cooperation within the donor coordination group comprised of the European Commission, member states and other stakeholders in partner countries, especially in priority countries.

7.4 CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN FINANCE (CEF)

The CEF was established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in 2001, and has operated since 2015 as an international organisation based in Ljubljana. In 2017, DAC included the CEF on the list of international organisations engaged in providing ODA.

As a CEF founding member, Slovenia is actively involved in the advisory board and the governing board, thus shaping the CEF programme, which helps to fulfil one of the priorities of development cooperation, especially in the Western Balkans, namely good governance.

- ➔ Slovenia will support CEF's development as an organisation in which its members can participate in south-south projects, thereby strengthening their capacities and preparing to become donors themselves.
- ➔ As a member of the Addis Ababa Tax Initiative, in which the CEF participates as observer, Slovenia will aspire to further strengthen CEF's activities in view of domestic revenue mobilisation in partner countries. It will support the gradual widening of geographical scope of CEF operations to include the most problematic regions, especially sub-Saharan Africa.
- ➔ Slovenia will also seek alliances to promote CEF areas of activity as priority areas within the EU, World Bank, the IMF, the OECD and other international organisations.
- ➔ Slovenia will support the CEF in obtaining adequate certifications to implement development cooperation with other international organisations and institutions.
- ➔ Slovenia will remain an active member of the CEF governing board and the advisory board.

7.5 WORLD BANK GROUP

The World Bank Group's mission is to eradicate poverty; it manages most of the development assistance in the world by combining various financial resources.

The International Development Association (IDA) which operates within the World Bank plays an important role in Slovenian development cooperation. Since its graduation to an IDA lending country (in 2004), Slovenia has actively participated in negotiations on replenishing funds, and co-shaped the strategic orientations for replenishments in accordance with its development cooperation priorities. Within the IDA, Slovenia is engaged also in the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). For Slovenia, the IDA is a key channel for providing assistance to the poorest and to the least-developed countries.

In addition, Slovenia is a member of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Financial Corporation (IFC) operating within the World Bank.

The World Bank also manages the Global Environment Fund, which the international community has used to preserve the environment at the global level, including by fighting climate change, since 1994. By offering

voluntary contributions, Slovenia participates in the Fund's replenishments and the strategic orientation of each replenishment.

- ➔ In accordance with the EU's collective engagement and political commitment under the Addis Ababa Action Plan, i.e. to allocate 0.15 to 0.20% of GNI for ODA to the least-developed countries by 2030, Slovenia will devote particular attention to the management and financing of the IDA, where its share gives it the right to influence the programmes of economic reconstruction and development of the world's poorest countries.
- ➔ Slovenia is aware that, in pursuing SDGs, the World Bank institutions require sufficient financial means to implement their vision. Therefore, it is ready to participate in negotiations on the increase of capital of the IBRD and the IFC⁴⁰.
- ➔ In the framework of the Global Environmental Fund, Slovenia will support global projects dealing with environmental issues, such as maintaining biodiversity, international waters management, soil degradation, chemicals, and climate change actions. Slovenia advocates for the GEF to allocate most of its resources to the least-developed partner countries, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, the Western Balkans and the European Neighbourhood.

7.6 OTHER INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Given the importance of the Western Balkans for Slovenia's foreign policy and development cooperation, Slovenia joined the 2006 initiative for the Western Balkan Fund, which was later replaced by the European Western Balkans Joint Fund.

Slovenia is also a shareholder of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

- ➔ Slovenia will continue its engagement with the European Western Balkans Joint Fund, and enhance its participation in the management bodies of the EBRD, the CEB and the IDB, advocating goals and bank interventions which accord with Slovenia's priorities in development cooperation.

8 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND HUMANITARIAN AID

A good organisational structure is one of the pillars of effective and sustainable development cooperation and humanitarian aid. The system for planning and organising development cooperation activities must be sufficiently stable, enabling a certain level of predictability and flexibility in terms of financial resources. It must also enable the planning of development cooperation in accordance with development orientations of partner countries.

The main planning and implementing stakeholders in development cooperation and humanitarian aid in Slovenia are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, acting as National Coordinator, the Permanent Coordination Group (previously the Interministerial Working Body), the Expert Council for Development Cooperation, other ministries and the implementing partners, namely public foundations, NGOs and the private sector.

8.1 NATIONAL COORDINATOR AND ITS ROLE

The National Coordinator of development cooperation and humanitarian aid in Slovenia is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with a State Secretary responsible for multilateral affairs acting as minister for development cooperation at the international level.

In 2015, the competences, topics and resources for development cooperation and humanitarian aid were moved from the Directorate for International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance to the level of a department within the Directorate for Multilateral Affairs, Development Cooperation and International Law.

⁴⁰ The decision on the level and means of strengthening the capital base of both institutions under the World Bank Group is expected in 2018/19.

In light of the envisaged increase of the share of GNI for ODA, the enhanced institutional status and independence of the department responsible for development cooperation and humanitarian aid along with adequate human resources are prerequisites for guaranteeing sustainable, efficient and targeted development cooperation.

In the field of humanitarian aid, the Ministry coordinates Slovenia's response to humanitarian crises, and channels humanitarian and post-conflict assistance through national implementing partners (other ministries, public foundations, NGOs) and international organisations. It also participates in the preparation of public calls for (co)financing humanitarian activities and is responsible for planning, coordinating, preparing and implementing public calls for proposals. The Ministry monitors humanitarian projects conducted by implementing partners, and drafts reports on Slovenia's humanitarian activities, while also following the multilateral activities of the UN, the EU and other international organisations and institutions.

Diplomatic missions play an important role in planning development cooperation and humanitarian aid activities, not as mere intermediaries between donors and recipients, but as partners in providing opinions and assessments of actual needs, participating in all stages and providing assistance with the planning and implementing stage of projects, and preparing final assessments. Having a diplomatic mission in the country has turned out to be one of the main factors contributing to the successful implementation of complex and financially significant development projects, and is sometimes considered crucial when deciding on specific projects.

- ➔ The Ministry will pay special attention to the following activities: (1) increased efficiency of development cooperation, the coordination of activities among all stakeholders and consistent application of the Strategy by all funding and implementing partners; (2) conclusion of multi-annual cooperation programmes and monitoring of their implementation; (3) application of the principle of policy coherence for development; (4) public communication (devising a communication plan) and global education; and (5) statistics and transparent reporting on development cooperation and humanitarian aid. A responsible person will be appointed for each of these areas.
- ➔ The Ministry will play a proactive role and coherently use the existing mechanisms in order to influence implementing partners with a view to achieving coherent and effective development cooperation and humanitarian aid.
- ➔ The Ministry will encourage funding and implementing partners to adopt a unified approach to drafting project proposals, which will include the clearly defined needs of partner countries, compliance with basic principles of development cooperation and humanitarian aid, addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development and cross-cutting issues, clear links between activities, results and goals, as well as direct references to sustainable development targets.

According to experts and different evaluations, the human capacities of the National Coordinator, as well as other line ministries involved in development cooperation, should be enhanced. To achieve better results, the specificities of development cooperation and humanitarian aid must be taken into consideration, as stability, trained staff and specific expert knowledge are of the utmost importance. Therefore, it is imperative to ensure appropriate environment for maintaining and acquiring new expertise and preserving sufficient institutional memory.

- ➔ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other line ministries will quantify the optimum human resources, strive to enhance capacities working exclusively in development cooperation and humanitarian aid, and ensure adequate conditions and incentives to promote additional training and long-term engagement in this field.
- ➔ Topics in development cooperation and humanitarian aid will continue to be covered in diplomatic training before service abroad.

8.2 COOPERATION AMONG MINISTRIES AND PERMANENT COORDINATION GROUP

Departments, line ministries and government services act as implementing and funding partners at the same time and are responsible for financing, planning and organising multilateral aid and most bilateral assistance in areas that fall under their remit.

The Permanent Coordination Group is the main coordinating body for development cooperation and humanitarian aid, comprising representatives of the relevant ministries and government services. Once annually, as a minimum, the group meets at the level of state secretaries, and twice at the level of deputies.

The Permanent Coordination Group is tasked with:

- participating in planning development cooperation and humanitarian aid and discussing levels of funding (by coordinating framework programmes);
 - coordinating development cooperation and humanitarian aid;
 - monitoring the implementation of development cooperation and humanitarian aid interventions;
 - monitoring policy coherence for development;
 - following evaluation outcomes and recommendations;
 - coordinating proposals of strategic and normative documents on development cooperation and humanitarian aid;
 - participating in drafting reports and assessments of the implementation of development cooperation and humanitarian aid.
- ➔ To enhance the role and competences of the Permanent Coordination Group, the Ministry will draft rules of procedure within a year. It will strive for meetings to be held more frequently as of 2019, namely three times per year, especially at the expert level.
- ➔ The Ministry will strive to ensure more efficient and integrated planning of development cooperation and humanitarian aid, including by assuming a more proactive role at the level of experts and during project drafting at other line ministries.
- ➔ Additionally, the Ministry will regularly inform the Permanent Coordination Group about the most important strategic and implementing documents (strategies, guidelines, framework programmes), as well as about reports and evaluations, with a view to engaging it in the adjustment of these documents. It will also inform the group on current trends in the international donor community.

8.3 EXPERT COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

In accordance with the Development Cooperation Act,⁴¹ an Expert Council was established in 2006, which functions as an advisory body to the minister responsible for development cooperation. The members of the Expert Council are appointed by the minister of foreign affairs from among representatives of key ministries engaging in development cooperation and humanitarian aid, representatives of implementing partners, experts, and representatives of chambers of commerce. The activities of the Council are regulated by rules of procedure.

The tasks of the Expert Council include:

- advice on questions submitted by the National Coordinator for development cooperation and humanitarian aid;
 - participation in drafting strategic and normative documents;
 - monitoring the implementation of the Strategy;
 - drafting of opinions on Slovenia's activities and positions regarding development cooperation and humanitarian aid.
- ➔ The National Coordinator will continue to cooperate closely with the Expert Council, and include its recommendations, as much as possible, in development cooperation and humanitarian aid policies and implementation.

9 INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

In view of achieving sustainable development impacts, Agenda 2030 underscores the importance of partnerships between states and stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels, including partnerships with the private sector and civil society.

Slovenia has built its development cooperation and humanitarian aid through a wide network of partners; in the implementing stage, these include state institutions, development cooperation and humanitarian aid public foundations, NGOs, the private sector and international organisations. Academic and research partners are

⁴¹ Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia Nos. 70/06 and 30/18.

involved in shaping policies and strategic orientations of development cooperation and humanitarian aid, including within the Expert Council. Other or new stakeholders occasionally appear in the field of development cooperation and humanitarian aid, from institutes to philanthropists, private donors and others.

The National Coordinator will encourage dialogue and cooperation among multiple development stakeholders, and to that end form a 'development cooperation partnership'. At least once a year, the National Coordinator will thus organise a general meeting of all partners implementing development cooperation and humanitarian aid. In the long term, this partnership will evolve into a joint development platform which will enable a variety of options for connecting development stakeholders in order to plan and implement bilateral development and humanitarian projects, and provide information on past and current projects, specific development needs, development stakeholders, projects in search of funding, and available partners for development projects. This community of interest will regroup stakeholders from different fields, including Slovenian experts working abroad and ODA recipients.

For the implementation of concrete development cooperation and humanitarian aid activities and projects, the partners will be selected on the basis of their capacity to tackle individual developmental and humanitarian challenges. Along with special types of aid, such as technical assistance, tuition fee waivers or scholarships, the main form of engagement consist of projects selected in public calls according to thematic and geographic priorities. Public calls for proposals are not necessary for legal entities established by the state for the purpose of development cooperation and humanitarian aid; a direct contract is concluded with them on the basis of confirmed annual programmes. Another special type of development cooperation is voluntary contributions to international organisations, which are most frequently used for emergency humanitarian aid and humanitarian aid in protracted crises, and the partners are selected on the basis of their presence in crisis-affected areas and the thematic relevance of their activities. The new legislation also foresees the possibility of concluding multi-annual strategic partnerships.

9.1 NGOs

For Slovenia, NGOs act as important partners not only in the planning process by co-shaping policies and strategic documents, but also in implementing and monitoring development cooperation and humanitarian aid, as well as in awareness raising and global education.

With their networks of local partners and the possibility of direct access to the people affected, they also facilitate Slovenia's engagement in countries outside its diplomatic network. This engagement follows the 2013 Guidelines on cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, the NGOs and the network of NGOs in the field of development cooperation and humanitarian aid, which will be dully upgraded.

The guidelines envisage a structured dialogue on strategic development issues between the platform of NGOs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the proposal of the platform, the Minister of Foreign Affairs appoints non-governmental representatives to the Expert Council.

The NGOs implement development cooperation and humanitarian aid through projects which are selected in public calls and correspond to geographic and thematic priorities. The new legislative framework paves the way for new forms of cooperation by introducing the strategic partnerships, which will facilitate cooperation and dialogue in the early stages of project drafting and allow more flexibility in the planning stage, as well as enable complementary activities by deploying the capacities of other stakeholders.

- ➔ Slovenia will continue to strengthen the capacities of NGOs in development cooperation, humanitarian aid, awareness-raising and global education, as well as encourage them to apply in calls of international organisations.
- ➔ Following the needs and opportunities of NGOs and in cooperation with them, the Ministry will identify new ways for further enhancing their capacities, and seek opportunities to mobilise additional funds for their activities in development cooperation and humanitarian aid.
- ➔ Slovenia will maintain public calls for proposals for NGOs, with a clear focus on target geographic and thematic priorities, and continue engaging NGOs in the planning process.
- ➔ NGOs will be involved in shaping Slovenia's positions on relevant development issues. Before important international events, NGOs will draft their positions and, as far as possible, an NGO representative will participate in the Slovenian delegation.

- ➔ Slovenia will encourage cooperation among NGOs, their integration into consortiums and the pooling of specialised knowledge to ensure a comprehensive approach to development challenges within strategic partnerships. NGOs will also be encouraged, in accordance with their capacities, to monitor Slovenia's activities in development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

9.2 PRIVATE SECTOR

In general, companies stimulate economic growth and ensure jobs, while socially responsible companies are considered key drivers of development and the fight against poverty. With the adoption of Agenda 2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing sustainable development, expectations regarding the private sector rose considerably in view of implementing the seventeen SDGs. The private sector ceased to be a mere implementing partner; its enhanced role goes well beyond that, and includes an active contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development. A new partnership between state- and non-state actors, including the private sector and civil society, is vital in achieving the transformative development effects of Agenda 2030 in practice, where the basic guiding principle is to achieve development cooperation and humanitarian aid goals.

In Slovenia's development cooperation and humanitarian aid endeavours, the private sector can take on different roles, including:

- by sharing technology, innovation and expertise through development projects;
- by investing own resources in development cooperation and humanitarian aid projects with a view to learning about new markets and penetrate them, establish public-private partnerships, acquire or strengthen ties and visibility, or simply for humanitarian purposes and to express solidarity;
- by applying for goods, services or construction contracts, in cases when resources are lacking or unavailable at the local level, in public calls for tender of partner countries/local communities or international organisations for implementing development projects.

Bearing in mind that the primary aim of involving the private sector, whether national or in partner countries, is to eradicate poverty, eliminate inequality and ensure sustainable development, such cooperation could also support the internationalisation efforts of the Slovenian economy, and vice versa.

- ➔ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will strengthen dialogue with the private sector in order to identify its capabilities and potential to contribute to the development of partner countries by sharing best practices, technologies, innovations and expertise. To this end, it will cooperate with other stakeholders, especially the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, the SPIRIT public agency, and with Slovenian business associations and corporate social responsibility associations.
- ➔ Slovenia will encourage partnerships between the private and the non-governmental sectors. Under the development cooperation partnership, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will organise meetings of implementing partners. Additionally, it will raise awareness in the private sector and, in order to include it in sustainable development in partner countries, shape guidelines which will ensure that this participation is grounded in respect for the principles of development cooperation and humanitarian aid, as well as in ensuring long-term sustainable development effects in partner countries.
- ➔ Slovenia will encourage the inclusion of the private sector in development cooperation interventions carried out by international organisations and especially the European Union. It will also strive for the creation of suitable mechanisms and instruments in the European Commission and the EIB which will facilitate the contributions of the Slovenian private sector, especially MSMEs, in implementing the EU's SDGs. In ensuring sustainable development in partner countries, Slovenia will also strive to promote cooperation between Slovenian private sector and the private sector of other countries.
- ➔ Close attention will be devoted to promoting corporate social responsibility and respect for human rights in the business sector, in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles and the National Action Plan of the Republic of Slovenia on Business and Human Rights. Companies with a proven track record of social responsibility⁴² will receive additional points in public calls. In order to develop this area in partner countries, additional targeted projects will be set up if necessary.

⁴² Companies demonstrate their track record with a corporate social responsibility certificate by providing human rights reports or sustainable reports or other credible evidence of activities demonstrating corporate social responsibility.

9.3 COOPERATION WITH PUBLIC FOUNDATIONS

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia established three public foundations which are active in the field of development cooperation and humanitarian aid: ITF Enhancing Human Security, the Centre for European Perspective and the Centre for International Cooperation and Development.

On the management boards of public foundations (co-)established by the state, i.e. legal entities under private law, Government representatives will actively contribute to co-shaping the institutions' programmes and strive to ensure the effective operation and mutual cooperation thereof in support of Slovenia's development cooperation, as well the strengthening of their comparative advantages and the implementation of the Strategy.

Through the participation of their representatives on the Expert Council for Development Cooperation, these public foundations will actively contribute to shaping national and international policies, Slovenia's development cooperation system and its thematic and priority orientations, and to informed expert and political decision-making. Maintaining regular communication with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and competent sectors, the institutions will inform them of all relevant facts relating to Slovenia's development cooperation projects and planning.

ITF Enhancing Human Security is a non-profit humanitarian foundation established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in 1998. Initially, it assisted in mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and later expanded its activities, becoming a global player in the field. Its mission is to improve security by removing the immediate and long-term effects of mining or explosive remnants of war (ERW), facilitate safe and sustainable development, and build resilience in communities which have been affected by conflict.

The Government provides ITF all the political and diplomatic support needed, as well as financial contributions for its operation and projects.

- ➔ Slovenia will continue to support ITF interventions corresponding to priority areas, i.e. humanitarian mine action and post-conflict rehabilitation, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine and the Middle East.
- ➔ It will support a comprehensive approach to peace and human security, as well as an upgrade in humanitarian interventions of ITF with wide-scope development projects, also in cooperation with other implementing partners.
- ➔ In the field of rehabilitation, Slovenia will continue encouraging strengthened relations with service providers in Slovenia.
- ➔ Slovenia will continue supporting ITF in its implementation of EU delegated cooperation and in raising other donor funds.
- ➔ Slovenia will also continue promoting local ownership and cooperation with national authorities within ITF activities.

The Centre for European Perspective (CEP) was established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in 2006 on the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to assist Western Balkan and other countries with a European perspective on their path towards the EU by sharing knowledge, experience and best practice. As the main mission of the CEP is to enhance the European perspective, including in democratisation, security, the rule of law, good governance and equal opportunities for young people, its intervention focus on the Western Balkans, and to some extent on countries in the eastern part of the European Neighbourhood.

As a co-organisier of the Bled Strategic Forum and one of the coordinators for the 10th Priority Area of the Danube Strategy (Institutional capacities and cooperation), the CEP has strategic knowledge of the Western Balkan region, with insights into the needs of the Danube region and a wide network of relevant contacts in the private sector.

- ➔ With a view to addressing the needs of partner countries, which require a comprehensive approach, those preparing projects will be encouraged to involve a wider range of experts from the state administration and the wider public sector, as well as experts from abroad, the private sector, academia and NGOs.
- ➔ The possibilities of enhancing all forms of technical assistance under the CEP will be further examined.
- ➔ In the field of equal opportunities, CEP activities will be promoted, especially those encouraging entrepreneurship among young people, including by involving the private sector and NGOs.

- ➔ The engagement in the eastern part of the European Neighbourhood will build on experience gained in the Western Balkans and in implementing the Danube Strategy.
- ➔ Slovenia will encourage the CEP to raise other donor funds.

The Centre for International Cooperation and Development (CMRS) is an independent non-profit research and counselling organisation, engaging in international economic relations. It was founded by the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovenian Export and Development Bank – SID Bank. The CMRS conducts research, provides counselling, information, documentation, promotional, educational, publishing and intermediary services in areas which are important for development and economic cooperation.

In 2007, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia granted the CMRS public authority to conduct technical and operational activities related to development cooperation. Based on priority areas and topics in Slovenia's development cooperation, its knowledge of the Slovenian economy and the identified development needs of partner countries in the field of public infrastructure as defined in partner countries development plans at the national or local levels, the CMRS proposes to the Government to finance projects in which the Slovenian private sector has a comparative advantage.

Its projects have included access to clean water and environmental infrastructure, environmental protection, capacity building for emergency response and educational infrastructure. In addition to Western Balkan countries, which are major partners in projects co-funded by Slovenia via the CMRS, individual projects were also implemented in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

- ➔ Representatives of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia will continue supporting, as the Centre's board members, investment projects in partner countries, especially in programme partner countries and countries where Slovenia has diplomatic missions.
- ➔ During the drafting of projects and their approval process, an important guiding principle is the effort to mobilise as much funds as possible with the lowest possible levels of state co-funding in order to maximise the impact of Slovenia's ODA. The level of co-funding will be determined after a financial gap analysis; for investment projects, the level must not exceed 50%.
- ➔ Slovenia will endeavour to seek synergies with SID Bank and to identify projects with catalytic effects and mobilisation potential in order to ensure, in the long term, sustained interest on the part of the Slovenian business sector in development cooperation and investing in partner countries.
- ➔ Significant attention will be turned to including cross-cutting issues in projects co-financed by the CMRS, and upgrading existing projects by involving NGOs and their local partners.
- ➔ The CMRS will ensure all the investment documentation which provides not only crucial information when deciding on the support for individual projects, but also helps to optimise financial resources and enables the pooling of offers by different development stakeholders.

10 RAISING AWARENESS OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND GLOBAL EDUCATION

10.1 AWARENESS RAISING AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Increased public awareness and public support are essential elements in raising the profile of development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

Support for development cooperation in Slovenia is lower than in other European countries. Consequently, awareness-raising and public communication activities must be envisaged, pointing to the significance of development cooperation and humanitarian aid and their indirect impact on everyday life in Slovenia. In the long term, these activities must clearly communicate that Slovenia contributes to the implementation of SDGs and bring about positive change for target groups in partner countries.

Although communication activities occasionally target the public in recipient countries or the international community and international organisations, their primary focus is the Slovenian public. With the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a key player, awareness-raising is implemented by all stakeholders who disseminate information on development cooperation and humanitarian aid activities via their channels and inform the Ministry of all major events.

Stakeholders' objectives, results, and activities are adapted to specific target groups: the general public, children and youth, experts, decision makers, or the private sector.

When dealing with the general public, including children and youth, the main objective is to make the public aware of the significance of development cooperation and humanitarian aid and of the fact that, indirectly, these also affect the Slovenian population.

- ➔ On their websites, and social and other media all development stakeholders will regularly publish information on development cooperation and humanitarian aid, the implementation of their activities and results.
- ➔ In cooperation with other line ministries and stakeholders, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will outline the major events planned during the year.
- ➔ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will support different forms of awareness raising in all Slovenian regions.

In order to raise awareness among children and youth, it is essential that education professionals are aware of the role of development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

- ➔ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, will aim at raising awareness of the importance of development cooperation and humanitarian aid among teachers, and inform them of the existence of a dedicated website with materials and information regarding this field for children and youth.⁴³
- ➔ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will regularly update its website with documents for raising awareness of development cooperation and humanitarian aid topics among children and youth.

Experts must be informed of current development cooperation and humanitarian aid policies and take part in their development. Whenever possible, international experts will be invited to participate in the debate on Slovenia's development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

- ➔ Each year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will host at least one public event with an expert debate at the national level.
- ➔ Development cooperation and humanitarian aid is included among the topics of relevant foreign policy events targeting Slovenian and foreign experts.
- ➔ Slovenian diplomats will be kept up to date on development cooperation and humanitarian aid through Slovenian Diplomacy Days and annual consultations of economic advisers.

The Permanent Coordination Group and regular cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs playing a key role in raising awareness among policy makers at the line ministries and National Assembly deputies of the importance of development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

- ➔ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will hold regular meetings of the Permanent Coordination Group to acquaint representatives of other ministries with development cooperation and humanitarian aid policies and to involve them in developing such policies. Attention will also be paid to raising public awareness.
- ➔ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other stakeholders will inform National Assembly deputies of the main events in this area. Each year, the Ministry will present reports on development cooperation and humanitarian aid to the National Assembly deputies, who, in turn, will be involved in shaping policies and assessing policy coherence and be invited to participate in events and debates.

In order to raise awareness in the private sector, it is essential that companies are fully aware of their potential role and ways of participating in development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

- ➔ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will pool best practice examples for the participation of the private sector in development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Presentations on development cooperation and humanitarian aid will be held at events targeting the private sector.
- ➔ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will foster dialogue and organise events for NGOs, the private sector and other development cooperation and humanitarian aid implementing partners.

⁴³ Activities aimed at raising the awareness of children and youth are also described in the chapter on global education.

10.2 GLOBAL EDUCATION

Slovenia recognises the role of global education⁴⁴ in eradicating poverty and inequality, achieving sustainable development, and educating active and responsible global citizens with a sense of solidarity. Global education is a lifelong process of learning and action, reflecting the complex interdependence of global actions and the individual's engagement. As it consequently constitutes a significant element of development cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to foster and enhance this concept in close cooperation with the ministry responsible for education. By doing so, Slovenia will implement SDG target 4.7, i.e., by 2030, ensuring that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among other things, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

For this purpose, formal and informal education programmes should be created for children and youth as well as for adults; these should focus on developing critical thinking and encouraging an active and responsible inclusion in the local and broader (national and global) communities. Active citizens who are educated and qualified based on these programmes can contribute, through their actions, to eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities, to sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, and to the respect for human rights. The topics addressed through global education concern education for sustainable development, including the importance of environmental protection and gender equality, human rights education, education for peace and conflict prevention, and intercultural education.

The long-term objective of global education is to make Slovenian citizens aware of the root causes and effects of global issues, such as poverty, hunger, inequalities and climate change, as well as international commitments concerning sustainable development, and encourage them to actively contribute to making development more fair and sustainable. Existing instruments for including global education topics in formal and informal education should become more connected, monitored and regularly updated. In this context, regular training of education professionals is key, both in initial education received as part of higher education pedagogical programmes and in further education and qualification.

Intended results of activities in the area of global education:

- Key stakeholders should recognise the significance of global education at the national level, and agree on its definition in relation to other similar concepts, including Agenda 2030;
 - The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport should have an overview of all stakeholders implementing global education activities within the formal education system;
 - Education professionals should be acquainted with global education topics and qualified to teach them, including in adult education;
-
- ➔ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy and the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO will endeavour to integrate different concepts, activities and policies on global education and education for sustainable development. To enhance cooperation between all stakeholders in this field, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport will have established, by 2020, an interministerial working group on education for sustainable development, which will also deal with global education;
 - ➔ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO, public education institutions under Article 28 of the Organization and Financing of Education Act⁴⁵ and NGOs will pay particular attention to high-quality education and training of trainers for all social groups, both at the formal and informal levels, inter alia, by including global education in their education and training topics.
 - ➔ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with all stakeholders will foster different approaches to implementing activities in this field, and continuously support the work of NGOs.

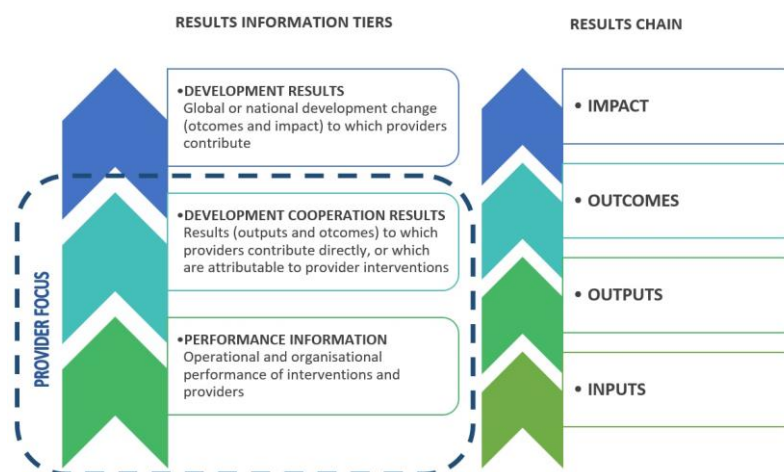
⁴⁴ Different terms are used to refer to this concept: global education, global learning, global citizenship education, etc.

⁴⁵ Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 16/07 – official consolidated text, 36/08, 58/09, 64/09 – corr., 65/09 – corr., 20/11, 40/12–ZUJF, 57/12–ZPCP-2D, 47/15, 46/16, 49/16 – corr., and 25/17–ZVAJ.

11 MANAGING FOR RESULTS

11.1 MANAGING FOR RESULTS

Slovenia is well aware that managing for results is essential for learning, adapting and improving the system of development cooperation and humanitarian aid.



Source: OECD

An approach based on managing for results, which will be developed over the following years, will be enabled by using the set of goals from the Agenda 2030 and by focusing Slovenia's development cooperation on a limited number of targets and partner countries.

11.2 MANAGING FOR RESULTS MECHANISMS

Concrete results to achieve the objectives defined in the Strategy will be determined in multi-annual framework programmes.

In annual reports, progress towards achieving development cooperation goals and results is shown through data on the volume and composition of ODA according to DAC methodology and its concentration on thematic and geographic priorities. Initially, the current system of collecting input data for different thematic areas will be supplemented by monitoring the pursuance of individual targets, and later linked to concrete results within a specific target based on the framework for monitoring results.

At the project level, managing for results is carried out by (i) the design and validation of projects; (ii) monitoring projects during their implementation and finalisation; (iii) field visits. Better managing for results will be achieved by introducing uniform instructions and forms for project proposals, as well as unified criteria and assessment forms for the selection of projects. Managing for results at the project level is to be enhanced by the introduction of strategic partnerships in which the funding institutions will be more closely involved in designing projects.

- ➔ If necessary, internal assessments for individual areas of development cooperation and humanitarian aid will be compiled, also in terms of the objectives and results achieved.

Managing for results can be improved by participating in seminars on the topic, particularly within the DAC, international reviews, including DAC Peer Reviews, and performance audits by the Court of Audit.

- ➔ Funding institutions will encourage implementing partners to consistently implement sustainable development targets, achieve the expected results of interventions, and report on their achievement. Standards will be harmonised by 2020.
- ➔ As of 2021, Slovenia's Development Cooperation Report, presented annually to the Government and the National Assembly, will include a chapter on the goals and results achieved, which will be also included in periodical evaluations.
- ➔ As of 2019, the National Coordinator will systematically organise up to three field visits per year to monitor the implementation of projects, the actual costs incurred, the eligible use of funds, as well as compliance

- with the development frameworks of partner countries, the assessment of results by end users of activities and projects, and draw up reports supporting the future planning of development cooperation⁴⁶.
- ➔ To constantly optimise, digitalise, simplify, and maximise the effectiveness of results of their development cooperation and humanitarian aid activities, the relevant ministries and implementing partners will exchange experience and best practice.

11.3 EVALUATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EVALUATION CULTURE

Evaluation is another factor in improving the planning and implementation of development cooperation and humanitarian aid and, consequently, in better management for results. The DAC standards define evaluation as the systematic and objective external assessment of an ongoing or completed development policy, programme or project, and its design, implementation and results in terms of adequacy and the attainment of goals, and of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and sustainability of a specific development intervention.

The evaluation's overall purpose is to contribute to improving a development policy, programme or project by using its findings to streamline decision-making processes and the shaping of policies with a view to maximising the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of development cooperation. Based on evaluation results and recommendations, measures are defined to improve the quality of a concrete project, programme or policy, and to resolve problems.

Evaluation is performed according to the Evaluation Policy of Slovenian Development Cooperation, adopted by the Government, and the Evaluation Guidelines of Slovenian Development Cooperation, determined by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The National Coordinator is tasked with organizing regular evaluation and fostering an evaluation culture.

- ➔ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will regularly outline an evaluation plan for the following two years and earmark funds for this purpose. The evaluation plan will take into account the number and scale of projects, periodic reviews of individual thematic and geographic priorities, and envisaged usefulness for future projects, programmes, or policies. Every four years, the plan will provide for an evaluation of the Strategy. In each four-year cycle, two geographic priorities and one thematic priority, or vice versa, are to be evaluated.
- ➔ The National Coordinator will foster the development of an evaluation culture by (i) disseminating evaluation results; (ii) encouraging learning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including its foreign service, and other ministries by launching a debate on the follow-up to recommendations and drafting a management response; and (iii) raising awareness and launching a debate on evaluation within the Permanent Coordination Group and the Expert Council to include the findings in development cooperation and humanitarian aid policies, strategies, and planning.
- ➔ In due course, evaluation will be systematically included in all major projects as part of the project cycle.

Slovenia's cooperation with key international organisations and participation in DAC peer reviews is another important factor in systemic learning.

11.4 EVALUATING AND MONITORING THE STRATEGY

An evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy is carried out every four years and may serve as the basis for revising it in the light of the national and international settings (i.e. changes to the institutional framework, newly opened diplomatic missions in any of the partner countries in a priority area or imminent graduation of a partner country, also as a result of EU membership). As a result of a changed international environment, the focus of development cooperation and humanitarian aid could shift to another partner country within the geographic priorities.

When drafting evaluation plans, it should be borne in mind that the first evaluation of the Strategy is to be carried out four years after its adoption, and later every four years. The first evaluation is planned for 2023, the second for 2027 and the third for 2031. Based on the evaluation results and recommendations, measures will be defined to improve the implementation of the Strategy.

⁴⁶ Monitoring of activities and projects in the field will not be carried out if the cost of monitoring exceeds 15% of funds allocated to the activity or project.

ANNEX 1: INDICATORS

Indicator		Baseline	Target value	Source
ODA/GNI		0.16% (2017)	0.33% (2030)	MFA, OECD/DAC
ODA to LDCs/GNI		0.04% (2016)	0.10% (2030)	MFA (based on OECD/DAC data)
Development cooperation as a tool in meeting Slovenian foreign policy objectives				
	Development cooperation is included in documents on Slovenia's foreign policy and strategy	YES	YES	Declaration on Foreign Policy, Foreign Policy Strategy and strategies for different areas (e.g. for the Western Balkans)
	Development cooperation is included in the core national development documents	YES	YES	Slovenian Development Strategy 2030 and other relevant documents
Prominence and effectiveness of development cooperation and humanitarian aid				
	Share of country programmable aid for programme partner countries	21% (average for 2014–17)	30% (2022) 40% (2030)	OECD/DAC, MFA
	Share of country programmable aid for the Western Balkans	66% (average for 2014–17)	60–70% (2019 and beyond)	OECD/DAC, MFA
	Share of country programmable aid for thematic priorities	59% (average for 2014–17)	75% (2022 and beyond)	OECD/DAC, MFA
	Ranking as one of top 5 bilateral donors	in 2 partner countries (2016)	in at least 2 partner countries (2022); in at least 3 partner countries (2030)	OECD/DAC, MFA
	Share of country programmable aid with a gender perspective (included in the planning, implementation and monitoring of a project; a project includes activities for the empowerment of women and girls)	20% (2017)	40% (2022) 60% (2030)	MFA based on data from line ministries
	Share of country programmable aid with an environmental perspective (included in the planning, implementation and monitoring of a project; a project includes environmental protection activities)	40% (2017)	50 % (2022) 60 % (2030)	
	Share of country programmable aid for climate action	34 % (2017)	35 % (2022) 40% (2030)	
	Share of available bilateral ODA for thematic priorities by geographic priority ⁴⁷ as required by the Resolution	77% (2017) – thematic and geographic priorities under the prior Resolution (in a wider sense)	at least 50% (2022 and beyond)	
	Share of available bilateral ODA for either thematic or geographic priorities ⁴⁸ as required by the Resolution	93% (2017) – thematic and geographic priorities under the prior Resolution (in a wider sense)	at least 80% (2022 and beyond)	
	Number of countries with concluded multiannual programmes based on development documents of partner countries	1 (2017)	2 (2022 and beyond)	
	Number of countries in which Slovenia is engaged as part of EU Joint Programming	0	1 (2030)	
	Number of countries with revised agreements (contracts) including a human rights based approach	/	6 (2022)	
	Share of available bilateral ODA for humanitarian aid	11% (2017)	at least 10 % (2022 and beyond)	
	Share of bilateral humanitarian aid for preventive action, disaster risk reduction and resilience building	5% (2017)	at least 10% (2019 and beyond) – World Humanitarian Summit commitment	
	Use of uniform forms for public calls and project applications (exceeding EUR 10,000)	NO (2018)	YES (2022 and beyond)	

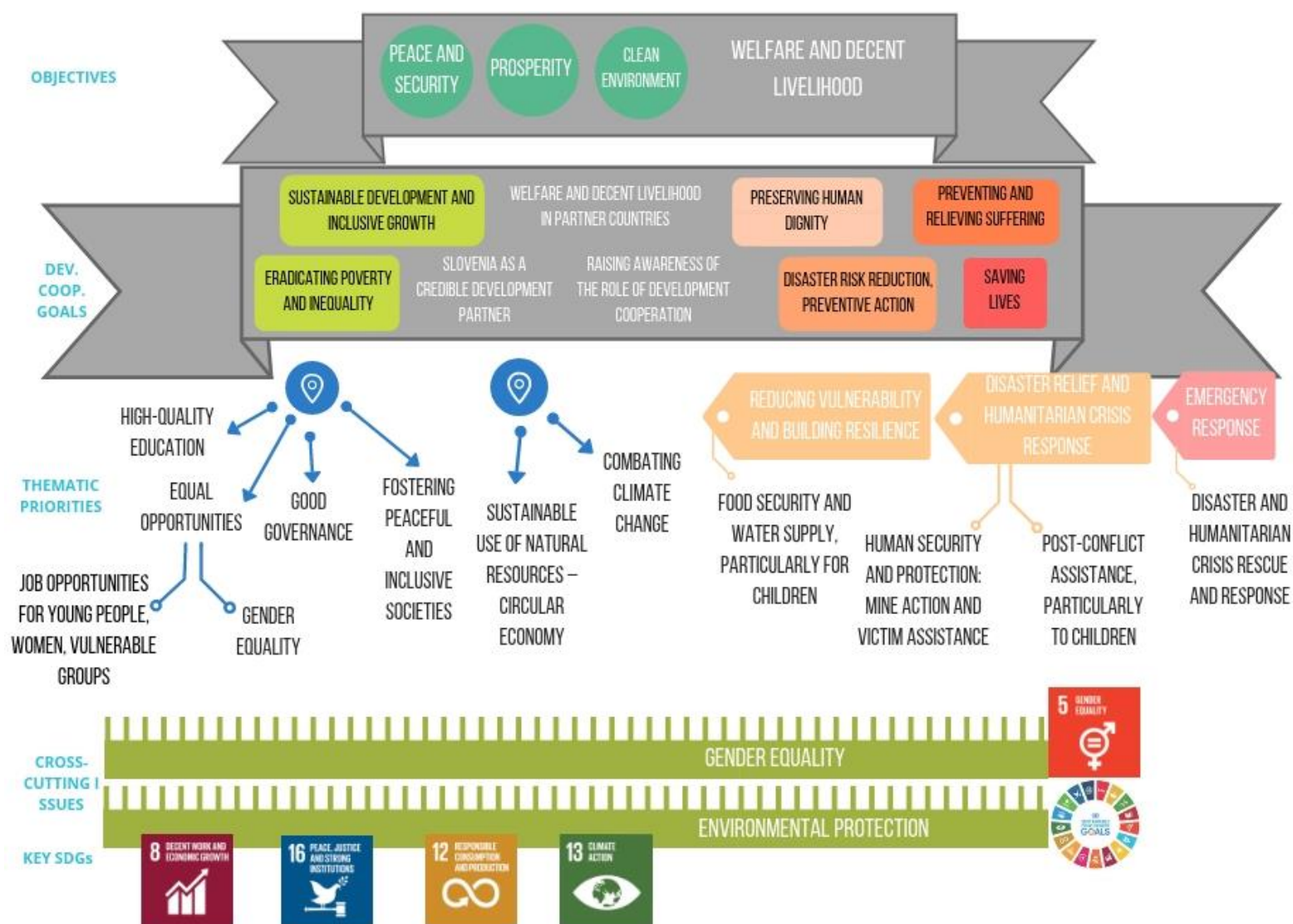
⁴⁷ These include countries with concluded bilateral agreements and LDCs in sub-Saharan Africa. The percentage includes bilateral development assistance in the narrow sense and humanitarian aid.

⁴⁸ These include countries with concluded bilateral agreements and LDCs in sub-Saharan Africa. The percentage includes bilateral development assistance in the narrow sense and humanitarian aid.

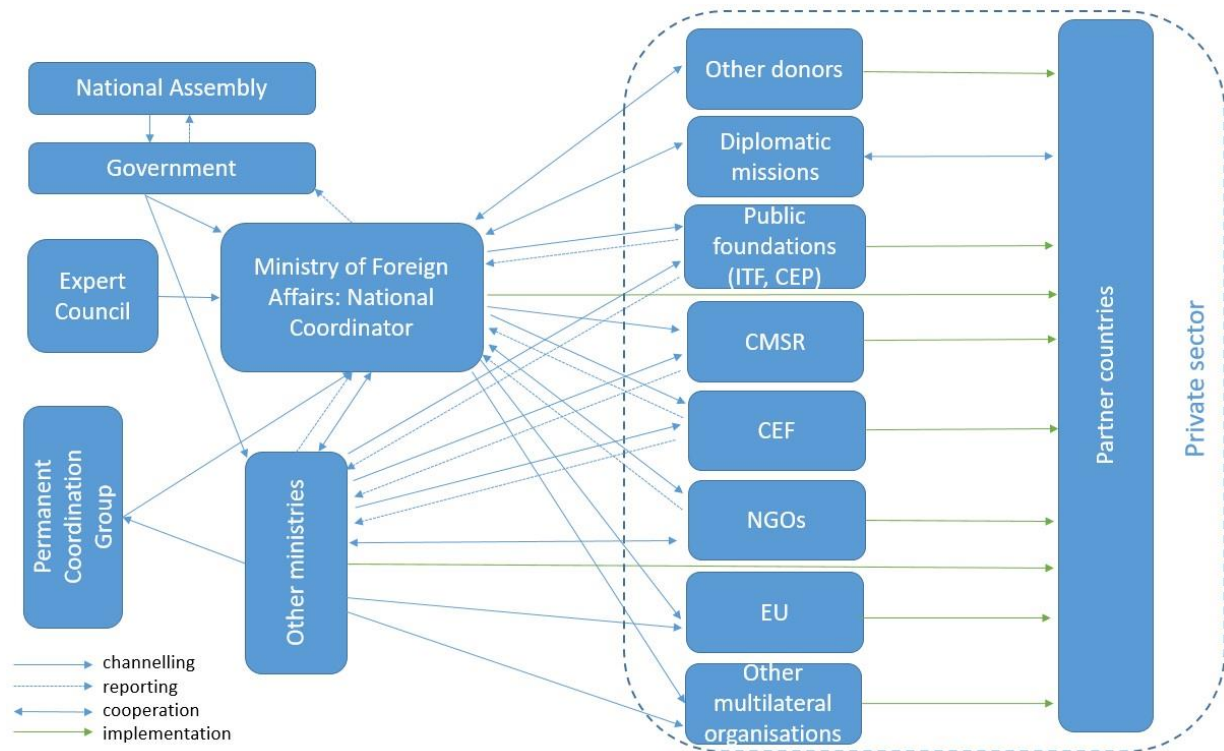
	Strategic partnerships	0 (2017)	at least 2 (2022); 5 (2030)	
	Channelling of humanitarian contributions via international organisations in response to crises to which Slovenia is also responding through bilateral interventions		at least 50% (2022 and beyond)	
	Humanitarian contributions via international organisations for cash-based interventions	0 (2017)	at least 1 (2019 and beyond)	
Multilateral development cooperation				
	Involvement in shaping development cooperation policy of the UN, EU, OECD, and World Bank Group	YES (2018)	YES (2019 and beyond)	MFA, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
	Participation in strategic management of the CEF	YES (2018)	YES (2019 and beyond)	MFA, Ministry of Finance
Coordination of development cooperation				
	Handling cases of policy (in)coherence for development per year/Contact point reports	0 (2018)	1 (2020 and beyond)	MFA
	Timely submission to the DAC of comprehensive data on future spending	YES (2018)	YES (2019 and beyond)	MFA
	Timely submission to the DAC of comprehensive data on ODA and other official flows in the past year	YES (2018)	YES (2019 and beyond)	MFA
	Number of complementary projects implemented by different Slovenian implementing partners, per year	0 (2018)	3 (2022) 6 (2030)	MFA based on data from line ministries
	Number of bilateral projects co-financed by another bilateral donor, besides Slovenia, per year	3 (2016)	6 (2022) 10 (2030)	MFA based on data from line ministries
	Annual report on the operation of policy coherence for development national contact points	NO (2018)	YES (2020)	
Development cooperation results – possible indicators				
	Number of created decent jobs or self-employments (M/F)			MFA based on data from line ministries
	Number of closed negotiating chapters for EU accession, in which Slovenian experts had been involved			
	Number of inhabitants with improved housing and public utilities (M/F)			
	Demined area, in square metres			
	Number of persons/day in rehabilitation programmes (M/F)			
	Number of active projects for improving human and institutional capacities for risk preparedness and response to climate-related disasters; adaptation; climate mitigation; reducing the impact and early warning			
	Reduction of carbon emissions			
Partnerships				
	Number of NGOs involved in Slovenia's development cooperation and humanitarian aid (with projects worth over EUR 15,000 per year)	9 (2017);	at least 12 (2022); at least 14 (2030)	MFA based on data from line ministries
	High-level consultations with NGOs	1 (2017)	at least 1 (2019 and beyond)	MFA
	Development cooperation partnership – annual meeting of a wider circle of (potential) implementing partners	0 (2017)	at least 1 (2019 and beyond)	MFA
Awareness-raising and transparency				
	Share of available bilateral ODA for awareness-raising, global education and advocacy	0.7% (2017)	1.5% (2022) 2% (2030)	MFA
	Knowledge of, and support for, development cooperation and humanitarian aid among the population	below EU average (2018)	equal to or above EU average (2022) above EU average (2030)	Eurobarometer
	Dedicated website with up-to-date information on ongoing projects (worth over EUR 10,000), expected results, completed projects or links to projects	NO (2018)	YES (2022 and beyond)	MFA
	Publication of annual reports and framework programmes on development cooperation	YES (2018)	YES (2019 and beyond)	MFA

	and humanitarian aid, with translation into English (at least of abstracts)			
	Organisation of Slovenian Development Days each year	0 (2018)	1 (2019 and beyond)	MFA
	Drafting of an annual report on development cooperation and humanitarian aid and a debate at the competent parliamentary committee	1 (2017)	1 (2019 and beyond)	MFA based on data from line ministries
Global education				
	The concept of global education is harmonised with all relevant stakeholders	NO (2018)	YES (2022 and beyond)	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, MFA, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO
	Global education as part of initial and continuous training of education professionals	NO (2018)	YES (2022 and beyond)	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, MFA, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO
	Establishment and operation of an inter-ministerial working group	NO (2018)	YES (2020)	
Managing for results				
	Setting up a framework for measuring results	NO (2018)	YES (2022)	MFA
	Evaluation of development cooperation and humanitarian aid in accordance with the approved evaluation plan	1 per year (2018)	1 per year (2022 and beyond)	MFA
	Evaluation of projects worth over EUR 200,000 and co-financed by Slovenia as part of the project	0 (2018)	4 per year (2022) 8 per year (2030)	MFA and other ministries

ANNEX 2: OVERVIEW OF THEMATIC PRIORITIES OF SLOVENIA'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



ANNEX 3: STAKEHOLDER CHART



ANNEX 4: OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION BY COUNTRY IN SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITIES BASED ON THE GENERAL CRITERIA OF SLOVENIA'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

WESTERN BALKANS (2012–2016) EUR 47.4 million or 65% of available bilateral ODA	Foreign policy priority			Diplomatic relations	Slovenian implementing partners	Agreements concluded & positive experience (continuity)	Slovenia's position among donors	Inclusion of the country in at least one category of countries that in need (OECD, UN, World Bank)
	Slovenia's foreign policy strategy	Diversity of political and other relations	Economic relations (trade in 2016)	Diplomatic missions / diplomatic relations				
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA EUR 10.32 million 22% ↓	YES	YES	EUR 1.1 billion ↑	YES, embassy (reciprocity)	CEP, CEF, CMSR, ITF, NGOs	Agreement on Development Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina; entry into force: 4 January 2007	The largest donors of development assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina include the International Development Association (IDA), Germany, Switzerland, and OFID. Slovenia ranks 11th among bilateral donors, with a contribution of EUR 3.1 million in 2016.	YES
KOSOVO EUR 4.8 million 10% ↑	YES	YES	EUR 95.22 million ↑	YES, embassy (reciprocity)	CEP, CEF, NGOs	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo on Development Cooperation; entry into force: 3 May 2010	The largest donors of development assistance in Kosovo include the US, Germany, Switzerland, the OSCE and Sweden. Slovenia ranks 11th among bilateral donors, with a contribution of EUR 1.1 million in 2016.	YES
SERBIA EUR 5.6 million 12% ↑	YES	YES	EUR 1.25 billion ↑	YES, embassy (reciprocity)	CEP, CEF, CMSR, UNIDO, NGOs	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro on Development Cooperation; entry into force: 24 March 2005	The largest donors of development assistance in Serbia include the UAE, Germany, Switzerland, the US and Sweden. Slovenia ranks 14th among bilateral donors, with a contribution of EUR 1.9 million in 2016.	
ALBANIA EUR 1.6 million 3% ↑	YES	YES	EUR 45.6 million ↑	YES, embassy (reciprocity)	CEP, CEF, CMSR, NGOs	Agreement on Development Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania; entry into force: 4 June 2008	The largest donors of development assistance in Albania include Germany, Switzerland, the US, Japan and the UAE. Slovenia ranks 13th among bilateral donors, with a contribution of EUR 0.6 million in 2016.	

BROADENED CRITERIA FOR CONCLUDING MULTIANNUAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

WESTERN BALKANS (2012–2014) EUR 47.4 million or 65% of available bilateral ODA	Foreign policy priority			Diplomatic relations	Complementarity of key priorities of the partner country and of Slovenia's development cooperation	Slovenian implementing partners	Agreements concluded & positive experience (continuity)	Slovenia's position among donors	Inclusion of the country in at least one category of countries in need (OECD, UN, World Bank)
Available bilateral assistance 2012–2016	Slovenia's foreign policy strategy	Diversity of political and other relations	Economic relations (trade in 2016)	Diplomatic missions / diplomatic relations					
MACEDONIA EUR 12.1 million 26% ↑	YES	YES	EUR 261.84 million ↑	YES, embassy (reciprocity)	environmental protection (protection of water resources, wastewater treatment, energy efficiency); strengthening economic development and balanced regional development; modernising the public administration; providing training on EU integration	CEP, CEF, CMSR, NGOs	Agreement on Development Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia; entry into force: 10 July 2006; three memorandums on development cooperation signed: for 2011, 2012, and 2013–2015 (three- year period)	The largest donors of development assistance in Macedonia include the US, Switzerland, Germany, the OSCE and Austria. Slovenia ranks 5th among bilateral donors, with a contribution of EUR 2.7 million in 2016.	YES
MONTENEGRO EUR 7.25 million 15% ↓	YES	YES	EUR 96.65 million ↑	YES, embassy (reciprocity)	environmental protection and sustainable development of the least developed areas in the north of the country to develop high-quality ecotourism as a priority area of Montenegro's sustainable development	CEP, CEF, CMSR, NGOs	Agreement on Development Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of Montenegro (since 2009) Concluded programmes: for 2010 (one-year), for 2011 and 2012 (two-year); for 2013–2015 (three- year); for 2016–2017 (two- year).	The largest donors of development assistance in Montenegro include Germany, the US, the OSCE, UNHCR and Slovenia, which ranks 4th among bilateral donors, with a contribution of EUR 1.23 million in 2016.	

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD – EASTERN PART (2012–2016) EUR 1.71 million or 2% of available bilateral ODA	Foreign policy priority			Diplomatic relations	Slovenian implementi ng partners	Agreements concluded & positive experience	Inclusion of the country in at least one category of countries in need (OECD, UN, World Bank)
	Slovenia's foreign policy strategy	Diversity of political and other relations	Economic relations (trade)	Embassies/Diploma tic relations			
Available bilateral assistance 2012– 2016							
MOLDOVA EUR 672,557 39% ↓	YES	MODERA TE	statistical data detects no trade	Slovenian embassy in Ukraine (Moldovan embassy in Hungary)	CMSR, CEF, Slovenian Philanthro py	Agreement on Development Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Moldova; entry into force: 24 July 2007	YES
BELARUS EUR 89,806 5% ↓	YES	MODERA TE	EUR 49.07 million ↓	Slovenian embassy in the Russian Federation (Belarusian embassy in Hungary)	ITF, CEP, Slovenian Red Cross	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the conditions for the recuperation of Belarusian children in the Republic of Slovenia; entry into force: 27 October 2011	
UKRAINE EUR 837,984 49% ↓	YES	MODERA TE	EUR 142.6 million ↑	YES, embassy (reciprocity)	ITF, Slovenian Red Cross	Four development scholarships for graduate studies in Slovenia	
GEORGIA EUR 90,569 5% ↑	YES	MODERA TE	statistical data detects no trade	Slovenian embassy in Ukraine (Georgian embassy in Slovenia)		Two development scholarships for graduate studies in Slovenia	

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD – SOUTHERN PART (2012– 2016) EUR 1.82 million or 2% of available bilateral ODA	Foreign policy priority			Diplomatic relations	Slovenian implementing partners	Agreements concluded & positive experience	Inclusion of the country in at least one category of countries in need (OECD, UN, World Bank)
	Slovenia's foreign policy strategy	Diversity of political and other relations	Economic relations (trade)	Embassies/Diplomatic relations			
Available bilateral assistance 2012–2016							
PALESTINE EUR 963,564 53% ↓	MODERATE	MODERATE	EUR 179,000	Slovenia's office in Palestine (Palestinian mission to Austria)	ITF	Three development scholarships for graduate studies in Slovenia, humanitarian contributions	YES
SYRIA EUR 380,000 21% ↓	MODERATE	MODERATE	statistical data detects no trade	(Syrian embassy in Austria)	/	humanitarian contributions	YES
LEBANON EUR 212,842 12% ↑	MODERATE	MODERATE	EUR 12,063,000	Slovenian honorary consulate-general, Slovenian embassy in Turkey (Lebanese embassy in Austria)	Zavod Krog (Institute Circle), ITF	/	
JORDAN EUR 56,000 3% ↑	MODERATE	MODERATE	EUR 11,344,000	Slovenian consulate, Slovenian embassy in Egypt (Jordanian embassy in Austria)	Zavod Krog (Institute Circle), ITF	Development scholarships for graduate studies in Slovenia (in 2018), humanitarian contributions	
EGYPT EUR 137,740 5%	MODERATE	MODERATE	EUR 74,119,000	YES, embassy (reciprocity)	Zavod Krog (Institute Circle)	Two development scholarships for graduate studies in Slovenia	
MOROCCO EUR 41,698 1%	MODERATE	MODERATE	EUR 26,509,000	Slovenian consulate, Slovenian embassy in Paris (Moroccan embassy in Vienna)	Slovenian Philanthropy		

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (2012–2016) EUR 3.00 million or 4 % of available bilateral ODA	Foreign policy priority			Diplomatic relations	Slovenian implementing partners	Agreements concluded & positive experience	Inclusion of the country in at least one category of countries in need (OECD, UN, World Bank)
Available bilateral assistance 2012–2016	Slovenia's foreign policy strategy	Diversity of political and other relations	Economic relations (trade)	Embassies/Diplomatic relations			
RWANDA EUR 200,000 7% ↑	YES	NO	EUR 487,000 ↑	(Rwandan embassy in the Netherlands)	Peace Institute, Caritas Slovenia	/	YES
UGANDA EUR 164,975 6% ↓	YES	NO	EUR 2,112,000 ↑	(Ugandan embassy in Italy)	Edirisa Society Slovenia, Mission Centre of Slovenia, Institute Circle	/	YES
BURUNDI EUR 239,000 8% ↓	YES	NO	EUR 278,000 ↑	/	ADRA Slovenia, Caritas Slovenia	/	YES
KENYA EUR 72,781 2% ↑	YES	NO	EUR 1,004,000 ↑	Slovenian consulate in Kenya (Kenyan embassy in Vienna)	UNIDO	/	YES
ETHIOPIA EUR 10,000 0% ↑	YES	NO	EUR 3,377,000 ↑	/	/	/	YES