

Pursuant to Article 4, Paragraph 4, of the International Development Cooperation Act of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 70/06) and Article 109 of the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 92/07 – official consolidated text, 105/10, 80/13 and 38/17), at its session on 26 September 2017, the National Assembly adopted the

R E S O L U T I O N
on development cooperation and humanitarian assistance of the Republic of Slovenia
(Resolution)

The Republic of Slovenia (Slovenia), as a responsible member of the international community, reaffirms its commitment to development cooperation, which is one of the fundamental priorities of Slovenia's foreign policy.

Taking into account the changes in the international community which have occurred since the entry into force of the Resolution on International Development Cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia until 2015 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 73/08), and particularly the new global challenges of the 21st century,

Taking into account Slovenia's promotion of the prosperity and dignity of all people, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development, respect for human rights and the creation of peaceful and inclusive societies,

Taking into account Slovenia's commitments within the international community, particularly within international and regional organisations, above all within the European Union, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations,

Promoting the values that are highly valued and respected in Slovenian society: justice, equality and solidarity, diversity, tolerance and respect for democracy and human rights, including the prohibition of discrimination,

Reaffirming the importance of raising awareness of development cooperation, including global education,

Recognising the need for effective responses to specific development and humanitarian needs as well as the priorities of partner countries,

the National Assembly hereby adopts the Resolution on Development Cooperation and
Humanitarian Assistance of the Republic of Slovenia.

Together for prosperity and a sustainable future

1. Through development cooperation, Slovenia contributes to more balanced and fair global development, taking its share of responsibility in efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve

sustainable development. Slovenia is a developed country and an Official Development Assistance (ODA) donor. As a responsible and active member of the international community, it co-shapes policies and measures to deal with global development challenges. Together with its partners, it endeavours to protect human dignity and ensure a sustainable, fair, inclusive, safe and successful future for all.

2. Through humanitarian assistance, Slovenia expresses its solidarity with affected countries and also individuals facing extraordinary circumstances as a consequence of large-scale natural and other disasters or armed conflict.

3. In accordance with the Declaration of Foreign Policy of the Republic of Slovenia and the Strategy of Foreign Policy of the Republic of Slovenia, development cooperation is an important instrument of Slovenia's foreign policy. It is an expression of Slovenia's solidarity and interest, as global development challenges and crises endanger peace, stability and sustainable development in the world, thus affecting Slovenia's position and role in the international environment. Development cooperation enhances bilateral political and economic relations and raises Slovenia's profile in the world.

4. Slovenia's development cooperation is bilateral and multilateral. Slovenia plans and implements bilateral development cooperation primarily in the form of programme and project cooperation with partner countries, and by providing targeted humanitarian assistance. Slovenia's multilateral development cooperation includes active participation in the development cooperation of the European Union and other international institutions and organisations of which it is a member, both in the shaping of policies and measures, and in the steering and implementing of programmes.

Objective, basic premises and principles

5. The main objective of Slovenia's development cooperation is to contribute to the eradication of poverty, reduction of inequality and sustainable development in partner countries.

6. Basic premises of Slovenia's development cooperation:

- (i) Foreign policy objectives, which also include development cooperation;
- (ii) International agreements and standards on development cooperation and sustainable development, which Slovenia co-shapes within international organisations of which it is a member, the central document being the universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (iii) Values and strategic development orientations of Slovenian society, including the economy;
- (iv) Slovenia's past experience, comparative advantages and capabilities in development cooperation implementation.

7. The guiding principles of Slovenia's development cooperation: human-rights-based-approach, effectiveness of development cooperation, Policy Coherence for Development (PCD), country ownership of development and partnerships for sustainable development.

8. The guiding principles of humanitarian assistance are humanitarian and Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) principles.

Priorities and areas of development cooperation

9. Slovenia's development cooperation focuses on thematic and geographical areas where ODA can be effective; it reflects Slovenia's comparative advantages and capabilities, and provides support for partner countries' development efforts. For greater efficiency, Slovenia promotes dialogue and cooperation with partner countries, other donors and international organisations.

10. Thematic priorities:

- promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, with a particular emphasis on good governance, equal opportunities, including gender equality, and quality education;
- fight against climate change, focused on the sustainable management of natural and energy resources.

11. Slovenia's geographical priorities are the Western Balkans, the European neighbourhood and Sub-Saharan Africa, notably the least-developed countries in this region.

Programme- or project-based development cooperation can be established with particular selected countries located in priority geographical areas, taking into account their level of development, stability and security, as well as the overall level of relations and cooperation between the partner developing country and Slovenia.

Humanitarian assistance

12. Slovenia devotes special attention to humanitarian action, whereby its response is steered and coordinated according to international humanitarian law and the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, with full respect for human rights and refugee law.

In order to reduce the risk of disaster and achieve sustainable development, Slovenia strives for greater complementarity in humanitarian assistance and development cooperation, with a special emphasis on connecting reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes with development cooperation activities.

13. Humanitarian assistance encompasses:

(i) Emergency assistance unrelated to the thematic and geographical priorities, provided on the basis of an appeal from an affected country or international organisation, taking into account the humanitarian needs, the activities of international organisations and effectiveness of response;

(ii) Assistance provided in the aftermath of humanitarian crises, including reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes;

Thematic priorities of this type of assistance:

– human security and protection, including mine action programmes and mine victims' assistance;

– assistance in the aftermath of armed conflict, particularly for children;

(iii) Activities to reduce vulnerability to and the risk of crisis, preventive action and building resilience; the thematic priority of these activities is to guarantee a stable supply of drinking water and safe, adequate and good-quality food, especially for children.

Long-term planning and ensuring funds for development cooperation

14. Taking into account fiscal capacity and macroeconomic trends, Slovenia strives to meet its international commitments regarding the scope of ODA. Within six months following the adoption of the Resolution, in keeping with the commitment assumed by Slovenia as a Member State of the European Union, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, upon the proposal of the national coordinator, adopts an action plan to gradually increase the share of GNI for ODA; in this context, Slovenia will strive to honour the commitment to allocate 0.33 per cent of GNI for ODA by 2030.

15. Slovenia allocates at least 10 per cent of its available bilateral ODA to humanitarian assistance.

16. To achieve the concentration of ODA in keeping with the geographical and thematic priorities defined in the Resolution, Slovenia allocates (i) at least 50 per cent of available bilateral assistance to programmes and projects within both geographical and thematic priorities; and (ii) at least 80 per cent of available bilateral assistance to programmes and projects within either geographical or thematic priorities.

Development cooperation system

17. A sustainable and efficient system of development cooperation demands an appropriate strategic arrangement and organisational structure conducive to attaining development goals and positive development outcomes both for partner developing countries and for Slovenia as a donor country.

18. In its role as national coordinator, the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established a permanent coordination group for development cooperation; it coordinates development cooperation policies between line ministries, and consults with providers, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, and participates in the Expert Council for Development Cooperation.

Planning of and reporting on development cooperation

19. The strategy of development cooperation based on this Resolution is to be adopted by the Government within a year of the Resolution's adoption. The strategy will define in more detail: (i) thematic priorities; (ii) geographical priorities, including the criteria for selecting priority partner countries and orientations for action in the selected programme partner countries; (iii) orientations for international humanitarian assistance; (iv) orientations for multilateral development cooperation, with an emphasis on activities within the European Union; (v) orientations for cooperation with non-governmental organisations and the private sector; (vi) orientations for raising public awareness of development cooperation.

20. Bilateral development cooperation is planned within the multiannual framework programme of development cooperation.

21. The Government regularly informs the National Assembly of the objectives achieved and outcomes of development cooperation in annual reports and periodic evaluations. The reports serve as a basis for regular international reporting on the status and progress in this area.

Inclusive and effective partnership for development cooperation

22. The partnership between the State and other stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels, including the private sector and civil society, is based on the principles of universality, solidarity, cooperation and mutual responsibility, and is vital for achieving sustainable development impacts.

23. Slovenia underscores the importance of effective ODA. It makes every effort to maximise the effect of its ODA in partner countries, also by reducing administrative costs and mobilising additional partner resources.

24. Slovenia recognises the role of the private sector in achieving sustainable development, particularly through investment, trade and job creation, and promotes partnerships with the private sector directed at ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth in partner countries.

25. Slovenia strives to engage NGOs and civil society in planning, implementing and evaluating development cooperation. It devotes special attention to the development of NGOs and promotes their mutual cooperation.

26. A special category of development cooperation providers are the foundations established or co-established by the Slovenian Government for development cooperation in particular thematic areas. Slovenia is developing partnerships with these institutions and promoting their effective operation and mutual cooperation.

Raising public awareness

27. Slovenia recognises the role of global education in the eradication of poverty and implementation of sustainable development. Slovenia promotes activities of global education for a better understanding of developments in the world, their causes and consequences, as well as correlations between local and global dimensions.

28. To promote a broader understanding of development cooperation, special attention in Slovenia is devoted to raising the public awareness of the importance, objectives and achievements in this area.

Monitoring and evaluating development cooperation

29. All development cooperation programmes and projects must have clearly defined objectives and processes for monitoring their implementation.

30. The bases for evaluating Slovenia's development cooperation are the Evaluation Policy of Slovenian Official Development Cooperation adopted by the Slovenian Government, and the Evaluation Guidelines of Slovenian Development Cooperation determined by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

31. The Development Cooperation Strategy implementation is evaluated every four years. This evaluation could serve as a basis for revision, taking into account national and international circumstances.

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National Assembly

Dr Milan Brglez

President