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Address by

**H.E. Ms Tanja Fajon**

**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of**

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**Reception marking the launch of Slovenia's candidature for**

**the UN Security Council 2024–2025**

New York, September 26, 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear friends,

I would like to welcome you at today's event.

I have taken the position of the Slovenian Foreign Minister approximately three months ago, and this is my first United Nations General Assembly High Level Week.

After fifty meetings and events last week, I am not sure whether I feel impressed or depressed, or both*.* But definitely stressed.

Depressed due to mounting international problems. And impressed by the fact that most us have a common understanding of pressing issues: increasing number of conflicts, poverty, climate change, water scarcity, food security, effective governance, energy security, gender issues and so on.

While we agree on the list of our priorities, we have to do better, much better, to translate our words into action.

I hope you don't expect my speech to go without a couple of lines why Slovenia is an excellent candidate for the UN Security Council.

So, why I believe Slovenia is best fitted for the UN Security Council seat in this very moment.

We are small, but ambitious.

Slovenia has a rich historical experience that will help successfully navigating the UN through difficult times ahead of us.

Throughout our history we have been a part of different multi-ethnic states.

Often in our history Slovenians have been in a subordinate position. At the margins of regional turbulences, surrounded by stronger nations, forced to navigate through various outside interests. In this respect, we share a destiny of many small states worldwide – that we can due to our historical experience relate to. We can therefore listen to them better. And understand them better.

Fortunately, Slovenia has undergone a relatively calm democratic and economic transition after gaining independence in 1991. We understand the complexities of such a transition process, the gains and pains. And we are ready to share it with those interested – with a sincere understanding that every country needs a tailor made strategy.

Slovenia has experience with being a member of the UN Security Council. Since our first tenure in 1998 and 1999, we have expanded our know-how about the UN system, so we expect this membership would be even more productive.

Lastly, we do not build only on our diplomatic practices, gained after our independence, but also those from the former Yugoslavia. While we are very proud of our independent, successful country and we cherish the progress achieved in the last thirty years, we also remember experience that Slovenia gained as part of the former Yugoslavia - then a prominent member of the Non-Aligned Movement.

To us, it is perfectly clear that lasting solutions can only be agreed in a dynamic dialogue of equals, be it bilaterally or in the multilateral international fora.

Dear Friends,

I wish to confirm that Slovenia is committed and will remain committed to the United Nations. We can contribute to international peace and stability, respect of human rights, dialogue and democratic standards:

* Through the participation in the UN and other peacekeeping and stabilization efforts of military, police and civilian personnel.
* With our contribution to peaceful, sustainable and resilient societies through increasing development cooperation, humanitarian action and promotion of human rights.
* By supporting the fight against impunity and achievement of justice for victims of atrocities on all levels, and by focusing on protection of women and children in armed conflicts.
* Via promotion of a comprehensive policy on water – as an essential element of human development.
* Through support for the preservation of ecosystems and climate resilience.
* And finally with our assistance to conflict-affected countries with demining and stockpile destruction.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We need to make sure that the UN member states come together – that they return to dialogue and consensus. Slovenia commits itself to be an honest broker and a reliable partner to everyone. We have always strived to be a strong positive force for peace, and during these turbulent times, we are now more than ever committed to this goal. Our actions and aspirations have been, are and will be fully based on the UN Charter.

In fact, we have presented our candidature in December of last year because we firmly believe in the words of the late UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, who said that everything will be all right "when people, just people, stop thinking of the United Nations as a weird Picasso abstraction and see it as a drawing they made themselves".

Colleagues,

And now the moment that gathered us here.

It is my pleasure to officially launch our campaign under the slogan "Building Trust. Securing Future". During this campaign, we would like to hear from you in what way we can best support the challenges you and we all face.

I hope we can count on your support and your vote next June. My expectations for our membership are high and I hope we will be as successful as worldwide known Slovenians: for example NBA superstar Dončič in basketball, world famous chef Ana Roš in cooking, and Tour de France winner Pogačar in cycling.

– WE ARE IN IT TO WIN IT!

Thank you for your attention and thank you for joining us today.