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Statement by

**Ambassador Boštjan Malovrh**

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**to the United Nations**

at the

**UN Security Council Arria Formula Meeting on**

**Transitioning from Protracted Conflict and Fragility into Peace through Sustainable Development**

New York, 20 December 2022

Thank you Mr. (Ms.) Chair,

I would like to start by thanking the (Permanent) Representatives of Kenya and Brazil, as well as other cosponsors, for recognizing the essential role of sustainable development in transitioning from conflict to lasting peace, and expressing appreciation for organizing this timely event.

Speaking as a representative of a country from a region that has relatively successfully navigated its own transition from conflict and fragility, I can stress we are well aware of the myriad of challenges but also opportunities that arise in this process.

By analysing conflicts today, we can determine that poverty, inequality, violations of human rights and lack of access to opportunities are among the most evident causes of conflict and fragility, since people feel left-behind which can turn into anger.

Therefore, while sustainable development holds the key to creating lasting peace, we want to emphasize that respect, protection and promotion of human rights are the other side of that same coin. This also encompasses inclusive and participatory decision-making processes at the national and local levels.

Only an approach that recognizes their interconnectedness, and the need for addressing them side by side, along with each other, can lead to success in the long term.

Coming from the place of conflict and fragility, sustainable development can provide a framework for rebuilding, and at the same time reconciling societies. It can promote inclusive economic growth and job creation, improve access to education and healthcare, and protect the environment.

A multi-stakeholder participation and cooperation is required in our efforts to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals. Partnerships, especially with regional, national and local actors are essential in building resilient societies.

Slovenia has been supporting sustainable development initiatives in post-conflict and fragile settings, including on enhancing sustainable water and environmental management, food and water security and empowerment of women and access to education in Africa, mobilization of public finances for sustainable development in Western Balkans, and empowering women participation and their role in peace negotiations, mediation and conflict resolution in South America and the Middle East.

We have thus predominantly focused on the areas that enable more sustainable water and food management, support for the transition to a circular economy and the fight against climate change and humanitarian – development nexus. We have also supported initiatives that promote good governance, rule of law, and human rights education.

We support the implementation of the ITF Enhancing Human Security humanitarian organization and ECOWAS partner project on strengthening the capacity of ECOWAS and its Member States to mobilize domestic resources and mitigate macroeconomic fiscal imbalances due to unplanned events.

Through its International Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence under the auspices of UNESCO, we have been strengthening our contribution towards achieving the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with the application of Artificial Intelligence in all regions of the world.

In that sense, my country remains committed to supporting any efforts aimed at transition from conflict and fragility to peace. We intend to continue pursuing these efforts through our International development cooperation and humanitarian aid, as well as by remaining an active member of the international community and firm supporter of multilateralism.

We are also encouraged by the commitment and efforts displayed by others seating in this chamber with us today.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important topic.

