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Statement by

**Ms. Saša Jurečko**

**Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia**

**to the United Nations**

at the

**UN Security Council Open Debate on**

**Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace: Investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges**

New York, 26 January 2023

Thank you, Mr. President,

I thank briefers for their insightful remarks.

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement and would like to add some remarks in our national capacity. In my intervention, I will focus on the following three aspects: investment, inclusiveness, and partnership.

Mr. President,

Peacebuilding is about rebuilding trust and governance. It is about healing and building resilient societies. And with today’s complex challenges and a growing number of conflicts, the importance of conflict prevention and peacebuilding is evident.

First, on investment:

While we agree that investing in peacebuilding is investing in sustainable peace, financing continues to be a critical challenge. Sustainable and predictable funding is key. Slovenia will continue contributing to the UN PBF and work towards multiannual planning to increase its predictability.

Integrating sustainable development in peacebuilding provides the basis for reconciling and rebuilding communities. It promotes inclusive socio-economic growth, access to education, healthcare, and environmental protection. Addressing people's needs and investing in protecting their human rights paves the path to building peaceful and resilient societies.

Investing in efforts to enhance sustainable water, food security and environmental management, the fight against climate change, good governance, empowerment of women and youth and human rights education are at the forefront of Slovenian development cooperation.

Second, on inclusiveness:

An inclusive approach is a key to peacebuilding and involving local communities and all parts of society is essential. It validates the peacebuilding processes.

A sustainable and socially just economic model has to involve young people and women. However, women and youth remain underestimated and overlooked, and their rights continue to be violated.

We are especially concerned over the situation in Afghanistan, where women and girls' rights to health, education, and work are being denied daily.

We all need to do more to support women's rights and ensure their full, equal and meaningful participation in all decision-making processes and leadership positions. Societies that empower women are more peaceful and when women are included peace is more sustainable. During the 30 years of our statehood, we have been steadily raising the bar on women political leadership, which undeniably contributed to Slovenia being the 7th most peaceful country in the world, According to the Global Peace Index 2022.

Third, on Partnerships:

Successful peacebuilding demands inclusive partnerships with regional, national and local actors. They provide specific knowledge and understanding of regional challenges. We need to empower local and regional actors and lean on them to prepare, implement and evaluate projects.

Mr. President,

The growing number of conflicts today demand innovative and more integrated approaches to maintaining peace and security. When addressing the complexities and interconnectedness of global challenges, the Security Council should make better use of the existing tools and expertise, including tools on Environmental Peacebuilding developed by UNEP and Climate Security Mechanism. It can benefit from working in synergy with other UN bodies and agencies. Strengthening linkages and cooperation between Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council is essential.

The rules-based multilateral system with the UN Charter at the heart remains the bedrock of global peace and security. And promoting peaceful and inclusive societies focused on good governance, equal opportunities, and education has always been a priority for Slovenia. We stand ready to do our part as we continue our collective search to end the suffering and reach lasting peace and prosperity for all.

Thank you.

