



ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum
5-18 July 2022

Statement from the Government of the Republic of Slovenia

Delivered by mag. Marko Koprivc, State Secretary at the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy

Dear Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, I would like to thank everyone involved in organisation of the High-Level Political Forum 2022, especially the President of the ECOSOC and its Bureau Members as well as UN DESA. The Forum is an important opportunity for the international community to offer support for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is especially important to note that despite many global and regional challenges, reviews and monitoring of the achievement of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda continue to take place unobstructed.

The consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and Russian aggression against Ukraine that created food and energy crisis are hindering the achievement of the SDGs. Slovenia, as a member of the European Union, was participating at the quick and effective response by the EU to the challenges. The European Green Deal, the European Climate Act, the Action Plan of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Next Generation EU instrument are concrete measures that contribute to the creation of a sustainable and resilient Europe with tangible benefits for everyone around the world, and at the same time represent important steps towards achieving the SDGs.

Within the framework of the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, Slovenia has so far presented a Voluntary National Review on the realization of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development twice, the first in 2017 and the second in 2020. The last VNR includes an overview of the achievement of goals on the national level, as well as examples of good practices helping countries share experiences in the field of sustainable development.

Slovenia is aware of the importance of the SDGs and actively pursues their realization. We are among one of the first countries to adopt a long-term national development strategy, which directly addressed the SDGs and are thereby demonstrating our strong affiliation and commitment to the implementation of these goals. This is also evident from the recently published SDSN's Sustainable Development Report 2022, in which Slovenia ranks 15th among 163 countries. Despite many challenges remaining, I am happy to note Slovenia achieved the best results on SDG1 "No poverty" and SDG8 "Decent work and economic growth".

An element that contributed to this end was also Slovenia's response to the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. By taking quick action, our country protected numerous jobs, many companies and alleviated social hardships, thus contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. This also contributed to Slovenia currently being among the countries with the highest GDP growth and with good prospects for the future. However, for this trend to continue, the implementation of the planned reforms and investments within the framework of the Recovery and Resilience Plan, the prudent investment of European funds and the effective addressing of the current food and energy crisis, will be the key.

Covid-19 pandemic and consequences of Russian aggression against Ukraine are exposing that global challenges require global solutions. Now, more than ever it is the time to reflect on our common future, to build-back-better and improve our resilience, whilst ensuring that no one is left behind.

Slovenia is deeply concerned about increasing numbers of people living in extreme poverty. An additional 75 to 95 million people is going to fall into extreme poverty in 2022 compared with pre-pandemic levels. The international community has a duty to give its full attention and dedication to finding solutions to challenges of food and energy security, as well as the risks of major economic crises together with rising inflation, supply-chain disruptions and unsustainable debt in developing countries. Slovenia remains committed to effective multilateralism with the UN at its core. Cooperation, solidarity and mutual trust can help effectively address the challenges that require collective action.

Comprehensive, transformative and innovative policies are needed to turn the tide and accelerate the SDG implementation progress. With the Summit of Future and the 2023 SDG Summit ahead of us, we all have a great opportunity to continue the common global effort towards the achievement of the SDGs and following the path of the world transformation through 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.