

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA MS SANJA AJANOVIĆ HOVNIK (4 min)

- Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen.
- It is my pleasure to join you and address you at this event.
- From the very beginning, Slovenia has been committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals identified in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Slovenia presented its Voluntary National Review on the achievement of goals two times, in 2017 and in 2020, and will prepare at least one other voluntary national review of the SDGs before 2030.
- Globally, the progress made towards the implementation of the SDGs has faltered, reversing favourable trends.
- Compounding crises are increasingly affecting the most vulnerable societies and deepening inequalities.
- Like other countries, Slovenia faces complex and urgent challenges that require the full cooperation of all parts of society.
- In the future, the Republic of Slovenia is committed to strengthening the link between science and policy through evidence-based policy making, increasing capacity for transformation, prototyping and piloting.
- We are striving to apply new knowledge and increase capacity for transformation through better coordination between actors, conflict resolution, identification, and removal of obstacles, increasing the flexibility of institutions and benefiting from potential synergies.
- Slovenia finds that existing platforms in place to support the goals are not sufficient.
- Civil society organizations, NGOs, think-tanks, and similar organizations can play an important role and therefore must be heard, and the role of young people must also be strengthened.
- We set a long-term goal of achieving net zero emissions in our Climate Strategy 2050, and we are now in the process of revising National Energy and Climate

Plan to bring it in line with the EU-wide target of reducing emissions by 55 % by 2030.

- Along with other EU Members and some other states, Slovenia needs to significantly step up its efforts to meet the goal of zero greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century.
- This requires crucial structural, transformational, and exponential changes simultaneously on multiple fronts.
- However, we often lack long-term strategic thinking that is both horizontal across sectors and vertical across regional and local structures, as well as effective governance structures, behaviours, tools, and investments to implement actions to meet targets.
- We believe innovative capacity is crucial to design and deliver the necessary reform agendas, meet climate targets, respond to global crises, and shape better futures for all.
- Slovenia has the will, resources, and knowledge to move from a linear to a circular model, reduce emissions and prevent environmental crises caused by human activity.
- Slovenia will support the transformational change process through policies and actions in the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report, also by tackling social and environmental challenges through the systems innovation approach in partnership with Climate KIC.
- This approach identifies areas where we need to act simultaneously and coherently to accelerate decarbonization, integrate climate and circular goals and increase the capacity of stakeholders to design and implement climate and circularity related measures that go beyond silo solutions.
- Now, more than ever, there is a need for global partnership between governments, businesses, science, and civil society to get back on track to meet the Goals by 2030.
- We look forward to participating in the forthcoming sessions.
- I wish us all meaningful exchange of practices and success in our common goals.
- Thank you.