

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure to be here at this historic event and to address the General Assembly on behalf of my country.

Slovenia remains firmly committed to fulfilling the goals identified thirty years ago at the first Social Summit in Copenhagen, as well as those set out ten years ago in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, not only in the field of social development but also across other policy areas.

Although our country has one of the lowest rates of poverty and social exclusion, we continue to work tirelessly to further strengthen the social protection net and prepare it for the future. We recently introduced measures for housing crisis to address the issues faced by the youth, reformed the pension system to ensure its resilience in face of the demographic challenges, and we have introduced long-term care insurance, including improved financing for the retirement homes.

Our guiding principle is clear: the well-being of people must always be at the heart of every development policy. Investing in people is, above all, an investment in development — an investment in sustainable and inclusive progress. This process requires solidarity from different classes and age groups of society. Access to quality education, healthcare, decent work and social protection is not a luxury, it is a fundamental human right, as well as a key to political and economic stability and further progress of our societies

We firmly believe that our policies must build inclusive societies where no one is left behind. Without equality of opportunities, there can be no sustainable development. Genuine progress is unattainable unless inequalities - between countries, between genders, and between social classes - are significantly reduced.

At the same time, global peace remains an essential foundation for sustainable development. We are witnessing a change in global political and economic systems, which brings an increased chance for armed conflicts. Lack of dialogue and the rise of political radicalism promoting zero-sum political solutions led us to situations like the genocide in Palestine and war in Ukraine. This change of dynamics in international politics must be addressed rationally, with diplomacy and fact-based politics, inclusion of experts, as well as optimism, that we can improve global welfare through cooperation.

Slovenia stands firmly for peace, for the respect of human rights, and for respect of international law. We are equally committed to the continuous advancement of social rights. Within the framework of multilateral cooperation, progress is possible in this field as well. Together, we can achieve more. The declaration adopted at this Summit is proof of that. It is the result of our collective efforts and a clear demonstration that multilateralism continues to deliver.

However, we should not see this declaration as the conclusion of our work, but rather as the beginning of a new and essential process. I look forward to continuing this important journey together.

Thank You.