



**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR. ANDREJ LOGAR
STATE SECRETARY AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF SLOVENIA
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON PEACEBUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE
NEW YORK, 24 - 25 APRIL 2018**

*Mr. President of the General Assembly
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellences, distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I would like to thank PGA Lajčak for convening today's High-Level Meeting and for providing the opportunity to discuss ways to strengthen the United Nations' work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Slovenia **welcomes** Secretary Generals' Guterres **Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace**. We commend his determination and his tireless endeavors to strengthen the organization in a more efficient, effective and impactful way. We also fully support his endeavors in conflict prevention, as well as sustainable peace and we **encourage him to continue**.

Sustaining peace is the joint responsibility of governments and societies, and should **flow through all three pillars of the United Nations - peace and security, development and human rights** - and stages towards achieving sustainable development. For that the UN must be on the ground, effective and accountable and the entire organization must be involved. When the UN works together across all three pillars and with relevant partners, a meaningful difference can be made in peoples' lives. Respect for human rights is a precondition; without that there can be no peace, security or development.

The role of the UN in **prevention** should be central. Slovenia fully supports Secretary-General's endeavors to bring prevention into the spotlight. If we think the cost of it is too high, let us remember that no cost is higher than human lives. In partnership and cooperation with the UN, member states can play an indispensable role in preventive diplomacy.

One of the approaches to prevention can be addressing the role of **water as a factor of preventive diplomacy**, especially in the cross border or cross regional cooperation. We welcome the recommendations of the Report of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace called "A Matter of Survival" that was presented in September 2017 also here

in New York. The global water challenge is not only about development and human rights but it is also about peace and security. Therefore, it needs to be addressed urgently in an integrated and comprehensive way at all levels.

Building **resilience of societies** is another way to approach sustainable peace. Only a society that is resilient towards external and internal pressures can provide a stable and peaceful environment for development and its people. In order to help building resilience of fragile societies, societies in conflict or post conflict situations, they first of all need assistance, which links security with humanitarian and development approaches. The process must be national and people owned.

Slovenia has exactly for the purpose of rebuilding safe environment after the armed conflict established the humanitarian organization **ITF Enhancing Human Security**. Over the last 20 years ITF has successfully managed over 3,100 programs and projects, cleared almost 150 million square m² of mine and UXO contaminated land has been cleared in South East Europe, Lebanon and Azerbaijan. More than 1,300 mine survivors from Western Balkans, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa received rehabilitation treatment.

Soon after the armed conflict, the international community led by the UN must step up and find a **comprehensive approach to peace** by including **all stakeholders** as well as taking into account the **regional aspect**. We must not forget that even if by far the majority of conflicts are non-international, the consequences spill over. The cooperation with the region and between the UN and regional or sub regional organizations are key. Throughout the process special attention must be paid to **gender equality**. Women must be fully included in the political process and only full inclusivity of the process can be a building block of the resilient society. Only this way, the society will be able to have necessary tools to build a peaceful, democratic, resilient and inclusive future.

Effective peacebuilding and peacekeeping must involve the entire UN, **mandates must be robust, but still flexible enough**, so that the protection of and assistance to civilian population is in the heart of it, and must have the capacities to help set the foundation for sustainable peace. This demands well trained personnel, appropriate equipment and exit strategy.

All efforts in sustaining peace must be based on the **respect for human rights and the rule of law**. Respect for international law is the very foundation of international peace and security. Sustained peace can only be achieved by ending impunity. Ensuring justice for crimes committed remains essential. The victims of crimes must be protected and assisted, access to justice ensured. The approach must be comprehensive and reconciliation must play an important role. Slovenia has always been at the forefront of



the countries advocating for the international criminal justice, namely the International Criminal Court (**ICC**). More support should come also from those who can, should or must cooperate with the ICC including the Security Council. In the spirit of ending impunity we have also supported the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to assist in the Investigation and prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (**IIIM**).

Slovenia has a lot of experience in post conflict peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the region of the **Western Balkans**. Irreversible stability, reconciliation and sustainable development are impossible to achieve without a positive perspective for the young people. In this context Slovenia has started with the **Positive agenda for the youth of the Western Balkans**, aiming at promoting mobility, solidarity and common understanding among the youth in the region and thus contributing to overall reconciliation and reform efforts of the international community, especially EU.

Thank you.