



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of  
Slovenia to the UN Ms. Ondina Blokar Drobič at the Security Council  
Open Debate on "Addressing Complex Challenges to International  
Peace and Security"  
New York, December 20, 2017**

Mr President,

Allow me to start by thanking Japan for taking the initiative to convene this open debate and for preparing a very comprehensive concept note.

Slovenia would like to align itself with the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the EU and add a few remarks in its national capacity.

Mr President,

Long-standing and newly-emerging security challenges are not only significantly impacting international peace and security; they are also challenging our fundamental values and principles, enshrined in the UN Charter.

Slovenia welcomes the considerable engagement in conflict- prevention issues at the UN and that the "surge in diplomacy for peace" is one of the key priorities of the Secretary-General. We support the outlined proposals to better address the changing security environment, including by bridging the gaps between the UN's political affairs and peacekeeping.

We agree that any reform measures need to acknowledge the interconnectedness of UN's three pillars and create more synergy among them.

In this context, Slovenia believes that the Security Council needs to better integrate peacekeeping with development and humanitarian efforts. The UN, together with its member states, regional organizations, NGOs and civil society actors, needs to do more to support fragile countries, especially by helping them to enhance their societal resilience and security architecture. We recognize the need to better utilize mediation efforts, including through regional organizations and local communities.



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Ending impunity for the most serious international crimes is equally crucial. We stress the importance of effective cooperation with the International Criminal Court and call upon states that have not yet done so to ratify the Rome Statute.

Mr President,

We notice an increased political will to consider water scarcity as a potential driver of conflicts as shown also during the Security Council's open debate organized by Senegal in November 2016. Allow me to remind you of the highly-relevant work of the Global High-level Panel on Water and Peace, chaired by the former President of Slovenia, Dr Danilo Türk. Panel launched its report, together with a range of concrete recommendations on preventing water-related conflicts and leveraging water as an instrument of peace.

In addition regional cooperation is vital in removing water as a potential cause of conflicts or risk amplifier. Slovenia's positive experience in the region of the Western Balkans demonstrates how water can become a source of stability and cooperation. We believe that successful practices in the region, for example in the Sava River basin could be used as a model of water-related cooperation elsewhere in the world.

An important aspect of conflict prevention is a global-wide commitment to end hunger. In this regard Slovenia is raising awareness of the key role of bees and other pollinators for global food security. We are particularly pleased that just today, the General Assembly adopted the decision on World Bee Day.

Mr President,

Slovenia will continue to support activities aimed at raising awareness of the various aspects and a wide range of contemporary challenges to international peace and security. We hope that the Security Council will continue to address these challenges, including in its adopted documents.

Thank you.