

(Check against delivery)

2021 SEOUL UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL

Statement by Dr Stanislav Raščan, Deputy Foreign Minister and State Secretary of the Republic of SLOVENIA acting as Minister for Development Cooperation, 7 December 2021

Mr Chair, Dear colleagues,

Promotion of peace and peaceful settlement of conflicts have always been among Slovenia's priorities.

With the rise of the geopolitics of power and the conflation of emerging challenges, the need for multilateralism, cooperation and rules-based order is now greater than ever. The UN remains at the core of efforts to build a more secure, more prosperous and more stable world.

However, the UN cannot do it alone. Structured and inclusive political dialogue is essential. The EU-UN Strategic Partnership in Crisis Management is a good example of such dialogue, and Slovenia, as the country holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU, is working very hard to build even more bridges between the UN and the EU.

Peacekeeping cannot be successful without addressing the root causes and triggers of conflict. We need to focus more on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach and on the correlation between conflicts and climate change. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding interventions must be climate-sensitive and climate-resilient.

Slovenia welcomes the Seoul Initiative on Technology and Medical Capacity Building in Peacekeeping. It also applauds the Secretary General's efforts in support of peacekeeping through his initiatives Action for Peacekeeping and Action for Peacekeeping +. These initiatives are aimed at improving the safety and security of peacekeepers, implementing the Women, Peace and Security programme and strengthening peacekeeping operations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After 30 years of independence, Slovenia is now the 5th most peaceful country in the world, according to the Global Peace Index. We believe that this imposes on us a duty and a moral obligation to help others in our common endeavours for sustainable peace.

1. Even before Slovenia became part of the donor community, we initiated successful programmes in the areas of demining and mine victims assistance by establishing a humanitarian, non-profit organization called ITF Enhancing Human Security. Over the years, its activities have expanded to other European countries, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and South America, contributing to human security and mediation, enabling development, restoring livelihoods and thus solidifying peace.
2. To further enhance its contribution to peacekeeping, **Slovenia established the Peace Operations Training Centre in 2019**. The Centre improves the competences of experts deployed to UN peacekeeping operations and missions, and to the EU, NATO and OSCE. It also promotes the Women, Peace and Security agenda and gender equality, which are crucial for sustainable peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding.
3. **Slovenia decided to support the UN peacekeeping activities with an additional financial contribution** for a project aimed at improving the UN peacekeeping forces, a contribution to the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, and a contribution to the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

These additional contributions as well as the continued participation of Slovenian peacekeepers in the UN (and other) peacekeeping operations and missions reflect Slovenia's strong engagement in and commitment to the UN peacekeeping efforts.

Thank you.