

SLOVENIA

STATEMENT

BY

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IN NEW YORK**

AT THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR
DEVELOPMENT

Addis Ababa, 13-

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first thank the Ethiopian Government, the President of the General Assembly and the co-facilitators Ambassador Geir O. Pedersen of Norway and Ambassador George Talbot of Guyana, and all those who have worked hard to prepare this important event and its outcome document. We are standing on an important milestone, which will demonstrate the new reality of international development.

Slovenia believes that a successful outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the effective implementation of the post-2015 agenda are fundamentally interdependent. Both processes need to address poverty eradication and economic, environmental, and social challenges of sustainable development in a balanced manner. The principles of effective development cooperation, shared responsibilities, respective capabilities and mutual accountability should be at their core and no less important is the commitment to the paradigm shift towards a transformative and universal agenda. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda should constitute the Means of Implementation pillar of the post-2015 agenda.

It is important that we set the basic rules and principles that will determine the way we will be cooperating in the future while taking the road to achieving progress towards eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. While an ambitious international framework is a must, national strategies for sustainable development will form the second pillar of progress.

The transformative, integrated and universal nature of the post-2015 agenda calls for improved policy coherence at all levels and by all countries: among international processes and commitments; between national and international economic, social and environmental policies; among different stakeholders; and also at the national level. Moreover, all policies should contribute to achieving sustainable development around the globe, as well as better living quality of present and future generations.

In line with the principle of policy coherence, it is crucial that we address systemic issues that have a truly large effect on global affairs. In this context, trade is an important field that needs to be addressed, and relating to it are efforts aimed at reducing international trade obstacles. Another area that we would like to see progress in is finance. In order to prevent crises like the recent financial and economic downturn, my country is in favour of better-regulated financial markets, further reforms of the international financial and monetary system, and the

consolidation of the international financial safety net. Consequently, we advocate stricter control and enhanced cooperation among countries, primarily within multilateral finance institutions. Slovenia also supports further reforms relating to voting rights in international finance institutions, above all the conclusion of the reform of quotas in the International Monetary Fund.

Official development assistance (ODA) is an important element of development funding. Slovenia advocates channelling ODA to where it can have most impact, and points out its catalytic role. ODA is also of greatest importance for least developed countries that lack access to financial markets. Considering its public finance capabilities, Slovenia will strive to increase the volume of funds and above all improve ODA quality. My country is about to draft a national plan for a gradual increase of ODA, aiming to fulfil its commitment in the time frame of the post-2015 agenda. In line with the OECD/DAC standards it intends to devote special attention to improving the quality of this assistance. Funds should be put to the best use in accordance with the principles of effective development cooperation, including ownership, transparency, mutual responsibility and result orientation, and following the commitments of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-Operation (GPEDC).

At the end of the day, every country is responsible for its own development, therefore a well-functioning domestic financial management system is a precondition for obtaining the necessary resources that ensure societies, based on principles of inclusion and equality, including gender equality, without which there can be no sustainable development. Slovenia has joined the ranks of developed countries ten years ago, so we understand what it means to be a developed as well as a developing country. Based on our experience, we believe that each country has to follow its development path, based on its national context and needs, in line with the universally agreed frameworks that can act as guidance to all our efforts.

We hope that this year will bring a positive change in our approach to global challenges. The urgency of sustainable development and the need for change should be our driver in our future actions.

Thank you.