



Check against delivery!

»2022 United Nations Ocean Conference – Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions»

Portugalska, Lizbona, 27. junij –1. julij 2022

Plenary session:

Statement by Ambassador Blažka Kepić on behalf of the Republic of Slovenia

Distinguished Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

- ⇒ First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our hosts Portugal and Kenya for the preparation and organization of this very important event, bringing together global community to address oceans and water related issues.
- ⇒ Climate change, and the related rising sea levels, loss of biodiversity and pollution endanger human well-being, threaten social and economic development and affect political stability.
- ⇒ Healthy planet therefore depends on healthy oceans. It is crucial that we make further actions towards a more sustainable future, while focusing on the protection of coastal ecosystems and reducing marine pollution.
- ⇒ The path to this, however, depends also on the interlinkage with climate change, biodiversity, water management and pollution issues.
- ⇒ Slovenia therefore strongly supports all activities of the United Nations in the field of water, coast and sea, especially in terms of accelerating the processes of achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ⇒ Currently, an estimated 15% of the world's land and 7% of the ocean are protected. Slovenia is committed to protect and conserve at least 30% of the global land and at least 30% of the global sea areas by 2030, an objective that the EU and its Member States strongly support. However, we can also achieve this goal in the region with the implementation of our regional strategy and conservation measures.
- ⇒ Slovenia also advocates an ambitious climate change agenda for COP27 and supports all AOSIS countries in our shared efforts to reduce emissions to keep temperatures below 1.5 degrees, phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies, scaled up adaptation and mitigation funding and a firm mechanism for loss and damage.

- ⇒ We are aware that establishing liability and compensation for climate loss and damage has been a long-standing goal for vulnerable countries in the Least Developed Countries Group. Therefore, we are also contributing to the LDCs Fund at the Global Environmental Facility.
- ⇒ With the high risk of entering phase of extinction of marine species in our oceans, Slovenia fully supports the legally binding Instrument on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).
- ⇒ Strengthening the mechanisms for cooperation, exchange of knowledge and of positive practices in all relevant fields, have been demonstrated as effective tools. A good example of cross-border cooperation and connecting different regional structures and processes is establishing synergies between EUSAIR and the Barcelona Convention.
- ⇒ We would also like to highlight the importance of addressing the future of marine environment with young people and future generations. This should also not be limited to education and information, but by their active involvement in solving existing challenges.

(kratka pavza)

- ⇒ Let me take this opportunity to highlight that my country views multilateralism as the only path to world of peace, security, and prosperity for every individual and for all nations. Slovenia is a strong advocate of pre-eminence of the United Nations and effective multilateralism.
- ⇒ At its 30th anniversary of membership in the UN, Slovenia is also a candidate for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the period 2024-2025. If elected, we would bring to the table an impartial perspective of a relatively small country that is open and fully integrated in the international community. Among the issues that have been at the forefront of our engagement are climate change and environment, especially water, food security, promotion and implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, protection of civilians, and particularly children in armed conflict.
- ⇒ Last but not least, may this opportunity in Lisbon inspire us and propel us forward with successful discussions and commitments that will improve global ocean protection and safeguard our planet.

Thank you.