

Statement from Slovenian UN youth delegate regarding Slovenia's voluntary national review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Slovenia prepared its Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and presented it at the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in New York. The report covers the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In the preparation and the presentation of the VNR, the National Youth Council of Slovenia was consulted, involved and given a space to contribute its own ideas and views.

The preparation of the Slovenian national review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was conducted under the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy that functions as a focal point for the Agenda, among all the ministries and other state institutions. They developed a unique form of involvement of the National Youth Council of Slovenia into the preparation of the review. After the consultations about the process, the National Youth Council of Slovenia and the UN Youth Delegate were invited to prepare a special report that was divided into two parts. Firstly, the Council summarized a reflection of the government's work in the field of sustainable development from the youth perspective and secondly, a commitment of the Slovenian youth sector to the fulfillment of the goals was presented through the projects of the youth sector and proposals for future work. The report has been additionally presented at the High-Level Political Forum in New York where the UN Youth Delegate of Slovenia Sabina Carli was given a chance to address the plenary session in the name of the youth sector in Slovenia.

In the special report, numerous challenges of young people in Slovenia were pointed out, such as structural unemployment, unstable employment, lack of skills for the future of work, that lead to a delayed transition to adulthood and full autonomy of young individuals. Young people between the age of 15 and 29 years represent 15.5% of the population, while the projections forecast a nearly 1% decrease (to 14,8%) by the year 2030. The report on the other hand points out the positive aspects and strengths of Slovenian youth, including their awareness of global citizenship, the well-recognized youth sector and state support, participation in decision-

making, the highly educated population and high level of gender equality.

The National Youth Council of Slovenia proposed a number of ideas that should be addressed in the future: intergenerational dialogue, inclusion of sustainable development topics into the education curricula, integration of formal and non-formal education, life-long learning processes, development of youth policies on the level of self-governing local communities, and inclusion of youth representatives as integral part in the decision-making processes and bodies. We believe that the next steps in the dissemination of the report should be the translation of the report into the Slovenian language in order to increase accessibility of the report for the citizens and communication with the relevant stakeholders.

Since the Voluntary National Review of Slovenia presents the National Development Strategy as the core of the 2030 Agenda implementation mechanisms and approaches, it is crucial for the youth sector in Slovenia to remain involved in the process of preparation.

Therefore, with this statement we call upon the Government of the Republic of Slovenia to continue with the good practice of inclusion and involvement of youth sector. We stress the importance of addressing the most pressing issues of youth in Slovenia, such as structural unemployment, threats to decent work, risk of poverty of the most vulnerable groups and delayed transition to adulthood. Addressing these issues through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is crucial for a flourishing, successful and happy society in the future.

[Slovenia VNR 2017 – Executive Summary](#)

[Slovenia VNR 2017 – Full Report](#)