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**STATEMENT
BY**

H.E. Mr SAMUEL ŽBOGAR

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

at the

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SLOVENIA



Candidate for the United Nations Security Council

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset I would like to thank Turkey, our host, for all its engagement in this important event, as well as the Office of the high representative for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states for its hard work. We sincerely hope that this Conference will gain important political momentum and bring forward looking solutions for the LDCs and their people.

The realities of our world are changing. On one hand, we have witnessed multiple crises over the past years, which are resurfacing in intervals and have been adding additional pressure on all of us. On the other hand, development is becoming a much broader concept. The once clear boundary between developed and developing countries is blurring out, as increasingly more developing countries are playing an important role in shaping world's events.

In parallel to both, globalisation is making us interdependent. Regardless of our development status, we all have to deal with development challenges, starting with climate change, migration, how to make development sustainable and how to prevent growth from destroying our environment beyond irreparable limits.

Allow me to focus on several aspects to which Slovenia attaches great value in its development efforts.

The right to development is one of the basic rights of all people and countries. However, GDP growth by itself cannot ensure human development, equity and social justice. Despite that, economic growth continues being the main indicator of development. It is crucial to note that non-income development goals are the ones lagging farthest behind. We believe it is essential to focus on human development as the main indicator for development, as opposed to economic growth.

Development needs to be demand-driven. Ownership is essential if progress is to be achieved on the ground. We must make sure that developing countries are in the driving seat in order to develop needs-driven targets. We have to respect the basic fact that no size fits all.

We also have to underline that each country holds primary responsibility for its own development. Despite their limited resilience to vulnerabilities and continuing struggle, the LDCs have achieved progress during the last decade. Progress has also been made towards greater transparency and democratic practices in the LDCs, but it is essential to continue building on these successes in order to secure the goal of graduation from the group.

The efforts of LDCs need to be reinforced with international cooperation and partnerships. Development partners need to focus on delivering their aid promises and aid increase will certainly be needed in the coming years.

In the past years, Slovenia, who has not long ago joined the group of donor countries, has been working very hard to live up to its commitments and will strive to carry on in the future as well. Starting in 2010, Slovenia started contributing to the European Development Fund, which also means that proportionately more of our development resources will be channelled to the LDCs.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that aid increase without improving aid effectiveness will not bring the desired results. Aid effectiveness needs to apply to the whole range of donors, as the development landscape has witnessed many changes during the past years. The conference in Busan, Korea, at the end of this year, is thus an important event, which will contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including Millennium Development Goals.

Slovenia believes that one of the biggest responsibilities on our side of the development partnership is to ensure coherence of all policies that have an affect on development. There can be no gain in the field of development if other policies, such as trade, agriculture, migration, efforts in the field of climate change etc. cancel out the positive effects of development policies.

Slovenia attaches great value to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as they are essential to promoting development and to finding appropriate responses to global challenges. Women, who are disproportionately affected by poverty, need to become active players and beneficiaries of development.

Access to safe water and adequate sanitation is not only a target or sector. It underpins the success of a whole range of MDGs, including food security, health issues as well as gender equality and empowerment of women. Slovenia is aware that water management is at the core of pressing global issues, such as climate change.

People without secure access to safe drinking water and sanitation are usually the same people who lack access to energy. Without electricity, rural communities depend on biomass, also for cooking, water heating and lightning. This often results in unsustainable harvesting of forests and in some cases severe deforestation and land degradation.

With rising prices of imported fossil fuels, the development of renewable sources is essential for meeting the energy needs. Most LDCs have large underexploited potential for hydro, solar and wind energy.

These are only some of the issues that are being discussed at this important conference. It is our sincere hope that the Istanbul Programme of Action will offer concrete solutions for improving the progress of LDCs and renew the partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners.

A true partnership with a common purpose and coordinated approach is needed between all stakeholders: governments, civil societies and the private sector. There is no doubt that traditional official aid mechanisms need to remain in place. At the same time, changes in the development arena also need to be acknowledged, and potential benefits of all aspects of cooperation need to be harnessed.

In today's globalised world, where distance has lost its meaning, we all need to assume our respective responsibilities and realize why we are facing the numerous crises. We also have to study the lessons learned and use them in favor of development.

Over the past 20 years, Slovenia has undergone its own transition. The road has not always been easy, and we believe there is always room for improvement. It is the experiences from our journey that make us determined to contribute our share of support, including political, for the benefit of LDCs.

Thank you.