

*Státna misia Slovenskej republiky
pri Organizácii Spojených národov
New York*



*Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic
to the United Nations
New York*

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The Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to provide with a position of the Government of the Slovak Republic on the implementation of the General Assembly resolution 56/110 of 14 December 2001, entitled "Economic assistance to the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans".

Slovak development assistance is characterised by specialisation and focusing on the limited number of countries because Slovak Republic disposes of a limited amount of financial and human resources in this area. Slovak assistance will be oriented in longterm period on 2-3 programme countries and several project countries. Slovakia will develop broader cooperation with a programme country. From the very beginning this cooperation will be more complex. Memorandum of Understanding will be signed with the programme country and Country Strategy Paper will be prepared. On the other side, the cooperation with project countries will be based on implementation of relatively small and isolated projects. In order to achieve maximum effectiveness of the small projects, there is an effort to integrate projects into the programmes of the other donors and to develop the modality of trilateral co-operation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic approved in September 2002 the indicative list of the recipient countries of the Slovak official development assistance.

His Excellency
Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

The first programme country will be Serbia and Montenegro. The indicative list of the project countries consists of the following states in alphabet order: Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Mozambique, Sudan, Tajikistan, The FYR Macedonia and Uzbekistan to whom the assistance will be classified as the official development assistance.

The Slovak Republic has excellent political relations with Serbia and Montenegro and plays an important role in democratisation process in the countries of the former Yugoslavia. "Bratislava Process" played a crucial role in creating of the democratisation changes in the former Yugoslavia. Slovak assistance in this country will support democratic structure, implementation of required reform in various areas, good governance by means of common projects with partners from Serbia and Montenegro.

For the above-mentioned reasons the Slovak Republic will provide 1,5 mil. USD within the National Plan of Official Development Assistance which will be allocated into the Bratislava-Belgrade Fund. The Fund was created on a basis of the General Agreement signed between the Slovak Republic and Serbia and Montenegro which will establish an international legal framework of Official Development Assistance of the Slovak Republic for Serbia and Montenegro. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic will have a major representation in the executive management of the Fund. Administrator of the Fund will be chosen in the process of the public procurement.

The Fund is going to be established in line of the ODA institutional framework adopted by the Slovak Government: *The Development Assistance Policy, The Charter of Active Development Assistance and Co-operation, The Mechanism of Official Development Assistance of the Slovak Republic*. In August 2002 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic adopted *Substantive and Organisational Arrangements of the Slovak Development Assistance*.

Middle-term Policy on ODA and National Plan on ODA in 2003 clearly stipulated territorial and sectoral priorities of ODA provided by the Slovak Republic. Detailed thematic and multiyear time framework of development activities is elaborated in *the Strategy of Assistance for Serbia and Montenegro*.

The Fund will be audited on a basis of the *Guidelines for providing of the Official Development Assistance* in order to ensure transparency and control of financial resources. Slovak non-governmental organisations can also implement projects financed by the Fund.

The Slovak Republic, as the member of Stability Pact, has an interest to develop a co-operation in this south-eastern European region which will contribute to stabilisation of the region, acceleration of democratic processes, development of good neighbour relations, development of a market economy, prevention of an illegal immigration and integration of the country into the euro-atlantic structures.

The Permanent Mission of Slovak Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States of the United Nations in New York the assurances of its highest consideration. *10.*



New York, / August 2003