



SLOVENIA

STATEMENT

BY

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**

AT THE SPECIAL EVENT TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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Thanks to the President of General Assembly and all who were involved in the preparations of this special event.

Also to thank Secretary General for his determined and continuous efforts and his numerous initiatives aimed at scaling up action to realize Millennium Development Goal by 2015.

Special thanks to President of the Republic of Turkey HE Abdullah Gül and to President of the South African Republic HE Jacob Zuma for co-chairing this Panel.

Thirteen years ago the largest gathering of world leaders resulted in the adoption of Millennium Declaration, a defining moment that offered a hope for many people, especially those most vulnerable and excluded. The Declaration represented a powerful platform of values, principles and common actions to tackle global challenges and to realize the progress of our common well-being. It also led to the establishment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which proved to be a successful tool for the advancement of human development.

As we look back at the achievements, it is fair to say, that we still see a mixed story.

We have achieved very promising results in reducing a number of people living in extreme poverty and in improving access to drinking water. We recorded encouraging achievements in primary school enrollment and in health, especially in reducing the number of people infected by malaria, tuberculosis and HIV.

But still we have to continue with our commitments since the gap between rich and poor is getting bigger.

I believe we all need to do more to build the fundamental political and economic infrastructure in the poorest countries by assuring the prosperity: with organizing better education, healthcare, telecommunication, transport infrastructure, but also to assure stability and security through democratization, rule of law, and respect of human rights.

Additionally to that we should continue with the engagements in the areas such as maternal and children's health, access to sanitation, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

Special attention should be given to Africa, where so far we have witnessed solid improvements, but differences among and within African counties are still evident, with Sub-Saharan countries lagging behind the most.

Experiences show that strong national ownership of strategies, policies and programs, supported by international development cooperation have formed a solid framework for achieving MDGs. But only Governmental commitments are just not enough: we need to include also business communities: strong support to Public Private Projects – join development aid from the donor countries with the finances from international corporation and local financial and other involvement are the right formula for achieving the sustainable and sound development in the poorest countries.

The Governments of mentioned countries should therefore make every effort towards mobilization of domestic resources, which should be supplemented by donors' resources, where required. Local ownership of the process is crucial!

We still have some time left and it is important that we use it wisely and efficiently.

As a long distance runner I can tell last few miles always present greatest pressure, but a strong believe and commitment allows you to reinforce your determination and realize your primary goal - to finish the marathon by your expectations. Let's us not forget this motto in these last a couple of hundreds of days, which are left for the achievement of MDGs. Successful implementation of Millennium Development Goals by 2015 is our promise to the poorest and most excluded ones and we should keep it. In recent years we have made significant progress, however it has been generally recognized that this progress has been uneven and insufficient.

We should devote our efforts to less developed countries, small island developing states and those affected by conflicts. We should reach the poorest and most marginalized populations, including women and children.

I believe a new single and coherent post-2015 agenda should aim at eradication poverty in its all dimensions, including ending extreme poverty within a generation and achieving sustainable development. Sustainable development can be an effective and efficient tool also to reverse negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, achieve greater social inclusion and general economic transformation. This new agenda should be based on our experiences and lessons learned from Millennium Development Goals.

From the perspective of my country it will be equally important that new agenda will ensure human rights based approach, enhance human security through good governance, rule of law, peace and security and freedom from violence.

I truly believe it is in our human nature to aim towards better world and achieving MDGs makes our Planet a better place for everybody; especially for the most vulnerable.

With the aim to preserve the Earth we need to act as one with having in mind that we are all human beings. In order to save the Nature it is time to change the human nature – work together on the basis of solidarity and equality!
