

**Mr President, Mr Secretary-General,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Slovakia as one of the co-founders of the UN system is – and remains – a long-term and consistent advocate of multilateralism and international cooperation.**

**We welcome the agreed Pact for the Future and its annexes – the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations. It's a long-needed success of multilateralism.**

**My gratitude to the co-facilitators for their work and also to the Secretary-General for his vision that guided and shaped this Summit.**

**By the next year, 80 years will have passed since the Bretton Woods Conference, which changed the way of global governance.**

**We know that what used to take centuries or millennia now takes decades or even years. In plain speech – many changes come more often and much faster than in the past.**

**But we also live in a world with the highest amount of conflicts and humanitarian crises.**

**We see unprecedented refugee numbers and growing climate change impacts too.**

**What was considered best-in-class for most industries ten years ago is now slower than the average. If this applies to business, why wouldn't it apply to international cooperation?**

**We can afford no more senseless exchanges as we did on climate change. We need to reflect on facts instead of denying them.**

**One of the most positive features of our time is huge data collection. Together with the rising AI technology, it gives us the power to see and do things based on facts and science.**

**The flip side is the spread of disinformation and lies. Our policies have to reflect that our lives are increasingly transferred to the digital space. Our online identities become equally important as our physical identities.**

**We need to create conditions of what I call 'digital humanism' – defining the rights and obligations of the virtual world. And – equally important – tools for their enforcement.**

**We need to ensure that the rules of the online world mirror the rules of our physical world.**

**Online threats and dangers aren't less real than their 'offline' versions. Words and deeds in the virtual world can be even more destructive because they reach a much broader audience.**

**Expressing opinions in digital space shouldn't be restricted. But it should be guided by similar principles that we already apply outside the internet – full responsibility and clear identity.**

**Let's not confuse such rules with harm to the freedom of speech. Every freedom requires accountability.**

**We don't know what the future holds for us. But what we do know – is that the pace of change will not get any slower. We also know education, inclusion, investing in our youth, and reducing the digital divide – play a vital role in bracing for our digital future.**

**We don't get to choose in which part of the world we're born. Everyone deserves an equal starting line with digital technologies.**

**Today, they provide access to information, higher economic growth and fairer social conditions – the way to a better life. Access to digital tools shouldn't be determined only by money – but by individual skills and talents.**

**Living in a digital world also means life-long learning. I'm in my fifties and love technology but I have to be ready to constantly learn new skills to keep up.**

**Change and adaptability will remain the only constants. Wise infrastructure choice, rich data collection and analysis – not intuition, bias or prejudice – should primarily shape our policies.**

**We are on a steady road to an increasingly unstable world full of repeated crises. The global challenges are urgent and complex. And so must be our decision-making.**

**Of course – a stronger, more effective and reformed multilateral system would be desired. But we can also manage with institutions and mechanisms that we already have in place.**

**We need to invest more in respectful, practical and result-oriented cooperation. Just like we did with this Pact. It's also a way to reduce the mistrust among UN members and institutions.**

**I consider the Pact for the Future a stepping-stone of adaptation – not the end of the journey. There are many tasks ahead.**

**We need to work hard on SDGs towards our 2030 Agenda ambitions. We need to adapt to new technologies.**

**We also need to foster peace, collective security, conflict prevention, and human rights protection. But we also have to promote solidarity towards our future generations. We have committed to look out for their health and welfare as well as their needs and wishes.**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**The best way how to work for a better future for all is to focus and pay attention to what we do NOW and TODAY. And make sure that whatever we do, we do it the BEST we can.**

**Thank you.**