

***Concept and programme (Updated: 29 September 2023)***

**When do we meet?** 2 to 6October 2023.

**Who will be there?** Experts from all sectors (Slovenian implementing partners of international development cooperation and humanitarian aid, the Expert Council, implementing institutions, representatives of NGOs and international organisations), Members of Parliament, representatives of the private sector, civil society, the media, international, European and Slovenian decision-makers, representatives of academic institutions, students, representatives of foreign embassies in Slovenia, and the wider Slovenian public.

**What will be discussed on the first day?** The morning session will be dedicated to international partnerships and development cooperation, with a high–level panel on global development challenges, followed by an expert panel discussion on priority areas, challenges and the need for predictable financing to adequately address global crises. In the afternoon, the 1st Slovenian Humanitarian Forum will take place. The high–level panel will be followed by an expert discussion on Slovenia's response to the growing humanitarian needs around the world and what to do to address them more quickly, effectively, comprehensively and preventively.

**How else will you hear about us?**

* **Workshops and discussions** about different aspects of gender equality, environmental protection and sustainable development will be organised by the SLOGA Platform in cooperation with partner organisations in high schools across Slovenia;
* **A series of podcasts and videos** with participants of the Slovenian Development Days sharing their thoughts on how to contribute to reaching sustainable development goals (gender equality, elimination of poverty and hunger, climate change, socially and sustainably responsible enterprises, etc.) will be published on the YouTube channel of the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign an European Affairs;
* The Slovenian edition of ***World's Best News***, both online and in print, will be distributed in Slovenian cities during the Slovenian Development Days week;
* A **competition for primary schools** on the theme of humanitarian activities and volunteering will be organised and presented.

**Who are our partners?**

* SLOGA, a platform of NGOs working in the fields of development cooperation, global education and humanitarian aid
* Caritas Slovenia
* Fund for bilateral relations of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (partner of the 3 October 2023)

**PROGRAMME**

**Monday, 2 October**

**Kosovel Hall, Cankarjev dom**

Interpreting: Slovene and English

| **When** | **What** |
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| **8.30–9.30** | **Registration and networking coffee morning** |
| **9.30–11.00** | **Opening video address by Ms Tanja Fajon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia**  **New visions for international partnerships and development cooperation: Partnerships in the maelstrom of crises**  ***High-level panel***  *The world faces multiple climate, food, energy and financial crises and is falling behind in implementing the 2030 Agenda, including on key SDGs such as ending poverty and hunger and achieving gender equality. Inequalities and social exclusion are deepening. Recent figures show an alarming setback in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5: it will take another 300 years to achieve full gender equality. The increasing number of conflicts, the diversity of security threats and the shrinking of democratic space pose additional challenges.*  *Following the SDG Summit, expectations are rising for the upcoming COP28 and the UN Summit on the Future on key issues: our collective path forward and what is needed to achieve a global compact on financing for development, including climate finance. How to ensure adequate, predictable and innovative financing at the global and national levels, how to facilitate access to international finance and how best to build partnerships with the private sector?*  Moderated by Ms Sabina Stadler Repnik, Head Strategic Studies and Analyses Service, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs  Video messages by:  Ms Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Commission  Ms Rebeca Grynspan Mayufis, Secretary-General of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)   * Mr Uroš Vajgl, State Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy, Republic of Slovenia * Mr Carsten Staur, Chair of the Development Assistance Committee, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD DAC) * Ms Tanja Miškova, Ambassador-at-Large for water diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Slovenia * Ms Tanya Cox, Director of CONCORD, European Confederation of NGOs working on sustainable development and international cooperation |
| **11.–11.15** | **Coffee break** |
| **11.15–12.45** | **Slovenian development cooperation: Priorities, challenges and predictable financing**  ***Panel discussion***  *Considering its limited resources and diplomatic presence, Slovenia last year responded effectively to the changing development and humanitarian needs. While providing emergency aid to Ukraine, it did not overlook other humanitarian crises and natural disasters in the least developed countries (LDC), small island developing states (SIDS) and developing countries, which have been hit the hardest by the food, energy and financial crises. Currently, Slovenia is updating its strategic orientations with two cross-cutting priorities – the environment and gender equality. To strengthen its contribution to SDG 5: Gender Equality, Slovenia is committed to increasing the scope of its development activities aimed at achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment up to 85% by 2030.*  *Climate finance is one of the key questions of the future financing for development debates that will determine the relations between the developed and developing nations for decades.*  *What should be the role and focus of Slovenian development cooperation and international partnerships in the new global crises? How can we deliver on our commitments to raising ODA to 0.33% of GNI by 2030?*  *What is the potential of multilateral funds and fora and how, at the same time, can we enhance bilateral development cooperation? How can the decentralised government structure be enhanced and the implementing and financing ministries encouraged to engage in development partnerships?*  *How can sustainable development engagement with partner countries be ensured? How can we pool the financial resources earmarked for ODA with climate finance and other resources allocated by Slovenia, in keeping with international commitments?*  **Opening remarks** by Ms Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission  Moderated by Prof. Boštjan Udovič, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana   * Ms Tereza Novak, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia * Ms Nikolina Prah, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance * Ms Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission * Ms Maja Bučar, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana * Ms Jana Repanšek, Director of the Center of Excellence in Finance (CEF), a regional knowledge hub for South-Eastern Europe * Mr Max Zimani, Director of SLOGA, a platform of NGOs engaging in development cooperation, global education and humanitarian aid |
| **12.45–14.00** | **Lunch break** |
| **14.00–15.30** | **Opening of the 1st Slovenian Humanitarian Forum**  ***Melody, Myroslav Skoryk***  **Music for the future String ensemble**  *Music for the future* is a humanitarian art project led by the Slovenian Youth Orchestra and fuelled by the superpower of music.  **Opening address by Nataša Pirc Musar, President of the Republic of Slovenia**  **Humanitarian aid between needs and resources: How to respond in a faster, more effective, comprehensive and preventive way?**  ***High-level panel***  *The humanitarian gap between needs and available finance is widening. In 2022, when needs were lower, the humanitarian funds received were only enough to provide aid to half of the population in urgent need. International organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders working on the ground are thus often faced with resource shortages and the cancellation of humanitarian programmes, and all too often humanitarian and health workers are targets of attacks.*  *How can new financial resources be secured to address humanitarian needs? How can new actors, such as new donors, the private sector and foundations, be involved in humanitarian aid?*  *How can we efficiently coordinate diplomatic, development and humanitarian activities in order to address complex factors leading to humanitarian situations in a more effective and preventive manner?*  *What are the main obstacles to efficient work of international humanitarian organisations on the ground? How can more secure distribution of humanitarian aid be facilitated in conflict situations and in case of imposed sanctions regimes?*  *Have we as donors reacted efficiently to the global food crisis? Where are the opportunities for integration of development and humanitarian aid instruments to ensure food security?*  *How can climate-induced humanitarian crises be efficiently addressed?*  Moderated by Ms Julia Martinet, former advisor to the Belgium Minister for Development Cooperation  **Video message: Father Pedro Opeka, missionary in Madagascar**   * Mr Janez Lenarčič, European Commissioner for Crisis Management, European Commission * Ms Mirjana Špoljarić Egger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) * Ms Sanja Štiglic, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Slovenia * Ms Ute Klamert, Assistant Executive Director for Partnerships and Advocacy, World Food Programme * Mr Dominic Crowley, President of VOICE, European humanitarian NGO |
| **15.30–15.45** | **Coffee break** |
| **15.45–17.15** | **Slovenia’s humanitarian response to global crises**  ***Panel discussion:*** The discussion will be preceded by a three-minute video featuring statements by beneficiaries and personnel on the ground.  *With its fast response and aid to Ukraine and the acceptance of thousands of Ukrainian refugees, Slovenia demonstrated yet again a strong sense of solidarity with people in need. Even so, we did not forget other humanitarian crises that have worsened due to global implications of the Russian Federation's aggression on Ukraine, culminating in the global food, energy, and financial crises as well as supply chain disruptions.*  *What is Slovenia's response to the growing humanitarian needs in the world? Is Slovenia following the EU's commitment to increase finance for crisis response and the orientations of this year's European Humanitarian Forum, which will pave the way for future priorities in international humanitarian aid: respect for humanitarian law, effectiveness of aid, strengthening resilience to crises, etc.?*  *Most Slovenian humanitarian aid is channelled through international organisations. How can we upgrade these contributions with bilateral activities?*  *What is Slovenia’s role in the international donor community? What are Slovenia’s main achievements? What and how can we do better? We are a member of the Food Assistance Convention – what can be our added value in this context?*  *Where do we find opportunities for even more effective action, and how can our water diplomacy contribute to achieving this goal? How can Slovenian humanitarian actors be empowered to respond more quickly and effectively to humanitarian crises, both on their own and in partnerships?*  Opening remarks by Vojko Volk, State Secretary for International Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia  Moderated by Ms Darinka Pavlič Kamien   * Mr Vojko Volk, State Secretary for International Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia * Mr Edvin Skrt, Director-General of the Directorate for Development Cooperation & Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Slovenia * Mr Leon Behin, Director-General, Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief of the Republic of Slovenia * Mr Zlatko Šabić, International Relations Adviser to the President of the Republic of Slovenia * Ms Cvetka Tomin, Secretary General, Slovenian Red Cross * Mr Peter Tomažič, Secretary General, Caritas Slovenia * Mr Tomaž Lovrenčič, Director, ITF Enhancing Human Security |
| **17.15** | **Closing address: Ms Sanja Štiglic, State Secretary in her capacity as Minister of Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs** |

**18.00 Opening of the open-air photo exhibition "The essence of Humanity"**

***Portraits of the Slovenian Development Cooperation***

**Krakovski nasip, Ljubljana**

The exhibition featuring photographs will present the development and humanitarian projects supported by the Republic of Slovenia through the "faces" of those on the ground. The exhibition, which will be on display at Krakovski nasip in Ljubljana until mid-November, will then travel to other Slovenian cities (Maribor, Koper, Nova Gorica, etc.).

**Tuesday, 3 October**

**House of the EU, Ljubljana**

*Interpreting: Slovene and English*

*In cooperation with Fund for bilateral relations of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021*



| **When** | **What** |
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| **9.00–9.30** | **Registration and networking coffee morning** |
| **9.30–9.45** | Welcoming remarks by Ms Jerneja Jug Jerše, Head of the Commission Representation in Slovenia  **Opening addresses:**   * Sanja Štiglic, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Slovenia * Ms Trine Skymoen, Ambassador of Norway to Slovenia |
| **9.45–11.15** | **Global Gateway – development strategy for investment and infrastructure partnerships – what are the opportunities for small member states and for small and medium enterprises?**  *The panel will present practical experiences with the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy, which aims to mobilise up to 300 billion euros in investments between 2021 and 2027 to underpin a lasting global recovery, working to cater for the needs of the EU’s partner countries, and to take into account the interests of the EU to tackle the most pressing global challenges, from climate change and protecting the environment to improving health security and boosting competitiveness and global supply chains.*  *The key financial tool for bringing about impactful change in the EU’s partner countries under the EU’s Global Gateway strategy is the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) and its predecessor financing instrument (EFSD), which aim to leverage financing from public and private entities, using the multiplier effect generated by the financial support of EU blending and guarantees. Key to the success of this approach is the EU’s partnering with Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) to bring about change on the ground in support of the objectives of Global Gateway to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport and to strengthen health, education and research systems across the world.*  *How does Global Gateway contribute to strengthening the dialogue with partner countries? How inclusive is Global Gateway for EU member states and how can small and medium enterprises participate? What best practices have been adopted in creating Global Gateway projects and what is the impact on the ground?*  **Opening remarks:**   * Mr Vincent Grimaud, Head of Unit Coordination and oversight of Financing Instruments, European Commission – online   ***Panel discussion***  Moderated by Ms Ana Novak, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia to the EU   * Paweł Chorąży, Managing Director (responsible for EU Funds and development cooperation), Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego, Poland * Pascale Rouhier, Secretary General, Trade Promotion Europe * Liina Link, EU D4D and Development Cooperation with Africa Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia * Mr Mr Nicolas Stoetzel, Deputy Head of Unit Effective Development Policy and Team Europe, European Commission – online * Karim Karaki, ECDPM, Head  - Economic Recovery Transformation – online * Alessandra Spinelli, Head of Blending Instruments Unit in CDP, Italian Development Bank – online |
| **11.15–11.30** | **Coffee break** |
| **11.30–13.00** | **Private sector engagement in international development cooperation – sharing best practices**  *The private sector can play an important role in development and humanitarian activities, complementing the efforts in achieving the SDGs. Enterprises engaged in pro-development and humanitarian activities promote their corporate social responsibility and contribute to solving social and development challenges – all the while fostering new opportunities and creating partnerships that lead up to further business development.*  *What is the framework for engagement of the private sector in development cooperation and humanitarian aid?*  *What are Norway’s best practices?*  *What are the opportunities for private sector to engage in Slovenia's international development cooperation and humanitarian aid?*  *What best practices have enterprises and NGOs adopted so far?*  Presentation of the framework for private sector's engagement in development cooperation and Norway's experiences:   * Mr Paul Wade, Assistant Director, Department for Partnerships and Shared Prosperity, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) – online * Mr Marius Koestler, Co-founder of Emata.ug and Chief Commercial Officer, Skyfri Technologies – online * Mr Thomas B. Pettersen, CTO/Executive Director, Computas – online   Presentation of opportunities for private sector's engagement in Slovenia's international development cooperation and humanitarian aid:   * Ms Helena Vodušek, Head of Department for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Policies, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs   Presentation of best practices – round table   * Mr Janez Rogelj, Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport (MGTŠ) * Mr Dejan Prešiček, Director of Centre for International Cooperation and Development (CMSR) * Mr Roman Rojc, SID Bank * Ms Jana Lampe, Caritas Slovenia * Ms Darja Sekula Krstič, Forum for Equal Development * Mr Mr Matjaž Ivačič, Managing Director GeoCodis. * Mr Marko Štirn, Managing Director Damahaus Prestige   Moderated by Mr Matjaž Nahtigal, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana |
| **13.00–13.15** | **Closing address**  **Mr Edvin Skrt, Director General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs** |
| **13.15–14.30** | **Lunch and networking** |

**4–6 October**

The [CEF](https://www.cef-see.org/), an international organisation, will be hosting an [Annual Meeting](https://www.cef-see.org/23-lam-1665) of the international network of development organisations [Learn4dev](https://www.learn4dev.eu/) in Ljubljana from 4 to 6 October 2023, back to back with the 11th Slovenian Development Days. The meeting is intended for [member organisations](https://www.learn4dev.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=11) who gather every year to share best practices and knowledge and identify the possibilities for further cooperation.

  