



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

**National statement of the Republic of Slovenia at the  
UN Conference on Sustainable Development**

delivered by H.E. Mr Franc Bogovič, Minister of Agriculture and the Environment  
Rio de Janeiro, 21 June 2012

Esteemed Madam President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

it is an honour for me to represent Slovenia on this forward-looking occasion of the global community. For my country, Rio + 20 is an opportunity to confirm and prove its commitment to agreements concluded 20 years ago. Rio 92 was a very special moment for us. It was the first UN conference in which an official delegation of Slovenia, the young, newly independent UN member state, took part.

With the power of pride and the strength that comes with new responsibilities, we felt capable of reaching all the heights. Looking back today, we can see similarities in the developments of our and global societies. We have witnessed rises and falls on our path.

In the past 20 years, Slovenia has implemented the principles of Agenda 21 in both national and regional contexts. We are proud of our pro-active role in regional cooperation for the sustainable water management in the Sava and Danube river basins and the Adriatic Sea. Our local actions have therefore contributed to global endeavours, as we try to live the phrase "Act locally, think globally."

We acknowledge significant efforts on the path to sustainability achieved globally, which have improved the lives of a number of people and strengthened the inclusion of women, youth and vulnerable groups. Actions have begun to preserve the planet.

However, we have not yet been able to ensure the survival of future generations. The planet is in no better shape than before. Some environmental boundaries have already been crossed. We have to listen to scientists and researchers more carefully. The current trends will lead to a bleak future. To overcome them, we need to define new development paradigms that are not based on the logic of indefinite growth and profit at any cost. And we need them now.

Slovenia is committed to upgrading existing sustainable practices which integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. We can build on the strength of our egalitarian society, accessible education system, and highly professional healthcare system. Our development strategy recognises sustainable development as an overarching goal.

Building on our rich biodiversity and natural resources, we are ready to share our expertise in forest, water management, and chemical safety systems. Becoming an official development donor in 2004, we also took on our share of global responsibility by integrating sustainable development into our official development aid.

Slovenia firmly believes that a low-carbon, resource efficient and inclusive green economy can offer solutions to many persistent problems and, at the same time, provide opportunities for all and ensure economic development, social inclusion and preserve the environment. This has been proven by existing good practices in business and industry, including in several Slovenian companies. They are implementing not only technological development, but also social inclusion and innovation. With the draft outcome document in front of us there is a positive notion of green economy, as well as foundation for future concrete actions. However, if we won't act and let those notions fade away, we have not achieved anything.

Today, admitting that opportunities have been lost, we must take decisive action, supported by strong, efficient and better coordinated institutions at all levels, whilst also ensuring the involvement of all stakeholders. Rio + 20 outcome document is providing guidance for institutional reshape, deciding to establish High Level Political Forum and to upgrade UNEP. But will this be enough?

The Rio + 20 is seen as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make a choice. Renewing commitments will not be enough. Future generations should not remember this conference merely for its good intentions, but for its actions. And to restore the lost equilibrium of the planet, each one of us must take action. Slovenia remains committed.

Thank you!