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POINTS TO MAKE

Deputy Prime Minister | Minister of Foreign & European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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Quick Sum-up

(1) Introduction & where we stand today

(2) New development goals and their relevance for Slovakia

(3) Conclusion and call for action

Dear Secretary General, President of the General Assembly, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen...

At the **dawn** of the **new millennium** we convened here with the ambition of **eradicating poverty** and **gave birth** to *eight Millennium Development Goals*...Now we stand here again to **review** what we **have achieved** and **what to do** to make **our common ambition** become a reality...

Despite **some progress achieved**, **asymmetries persist** across regions and countries...As we speak, some *800 million* people are still living in *extreme poverty* ...they have been **left behind**.

We salute the adoption of the **revolutionary, comprehensive and inclusive 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda** ...aiming to ensure **prosperous and decent** life for all.

Slovakia thanks the **Secretary General**, the **President** of the General Assembly and the **co-facilitators** for their **arduous work** to reach a **balanced outcome document**...We were actively **involved** in preparatory process by... (1) **contributing** to the *Open Working Group* and...(2) as a **member** of the *Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Financing for Development* paving the way for the adoption of the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda**.

Slovakia commends and **supports** all *17 SDGs*...They build on the millennium priorities of **poverty eradication, prosperity and gender equality**...But they also include **new and relevant key factors** of sustainable development...Allow me to **elaborate more** on them:

(1) *First of all*, one of the *crucial lessons learned* from the MDGs was that they **focused mostly on the statistical targets** of poverty reduction...while **insisting less** on creating **socio-economic conditions, infrastructure**, addressing **global threats** to development (*such as climate change*) and forging an **enabling environment** to support these objectives...

Slovakia considers all these aspects, including **rule of law, good governance and inclusive institutions**, as equally **important and fundamental**...Therefore, we consider *Security Sector Reform* as a **relevant parameter** to achieve *Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies*...

The **absence of enabling environment** can have a **negative impact** on other SDGs such as **gender equality, women empowerment or inclusive economic growth**...

(2) *Second*, the new development agenda lays out **more specific targets** on *preservation of the environment and sustainable management of natural resources*...A clear set of **environmental goals** shall create a **critical momentum** and pave the way for a **successful COP 21 in Paris**...We are on the **right path**...

(3) *Third*, Slovakia openly **supports a revitalized Global Partnership** as proposed in *SDG 17*... We are eager to **build on the positive results** from MDG8 such as the *Busan principles for Effective Development Cooperation* and its voluntary initiatives...

As discussed in Addis Ababa, **ODA remains vital** for development of many countries. At the same time the *mobilization of all domestic resources* is one of **crucial elements** to address **national contexts**...It is here where Slovakia sees its **biggest contribution** to development by **sharing its know-how on fiscal reform and tax collection**...Also, the **new Global Partnership** means **inclusive cooperation** with all stakeholders, including *civil society & private sector*.

SDGs have to be implemented at two levels: (1) a **global level of coordinated and inclusive cooperation** and (2) an **individual level of domestically implemented strategies**...Each member state must be **involved, participate and contribute** to the extent of its own regional and national capacities...*joint action and individual responsibility* are keys to success.

Finally, we need a *systematic follow-up and review* mechanism at the national, regional and global level based on balanced and smart indicators...The *High Level Political Forum* could be well positioned to **oversee the implementation** of the agenda at the global level in order to **preserve its universal character**... In the process, **sound cooperation** among countries will be **crucial** in order to **enhance the collection of relevant, transparent and disaggregated data**...

Members of the international community, fellow representatives of our citizenry...

Facing one of the *biggest challenges for human kind*, all our **efforts** will be void if we are not determined to go well beyond our **political discourse**... We have to be **courageous and brave** to put this **agenda above** our collective and individual **interests**...

Mahatma Gandhi's wisdom tells us... "*strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will*"...without a **firm political determination**, only **feeble results** can be expected, thus:

Let's not miss this unique momentum and opportunity to **bring real and sustainable changes** towards 2030 and beyond...

Let's board on time this train to **prosperity and peace** ... but most importantly...

Let's make sure that on our **common journey of humanity**...**NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND.**

Thank you for your attention!