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أمانة شؤون مجلس الجامعة

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كلمة  
معالي السيدة تنجا فاجون  
وزيرة خارجية جمهورية سلوفينيا

أمام الجلسة الافتتاحية  
لمجلس جامعة الدول العربية على المستوى الوزاري  
في دورته العادية (158)

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ADDRESS

by

**H.E. Ms Tanja Fajon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
the Republic of Slovenia**

**at the Ministerial Council Meeting of the League of Arab States;**

**Cairo, 6 September 2022**

Dear Chairman of the Council of the League of Arab States, Your Excellency **Mr Abdullah Bouhabib**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of the Republic of Lebanon,

Dear Secretary General, Your Excellency **Mr Ahmed Aboul Gheit**,

**Other distinguished Ministers and Excellences,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am grateful for the invitation to the Ministerial Meeting of the League of Arab States. It is an honour to address this important forum.

Slovenia considers the **cooperation with all the countries** of the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Gulf to be of utmost importance.

In addition to strengthening relations and expanding bilateral cooperation with members of the League of Arab States, we aim to **strengthen cooperation** with your important organisation **also at multilateral level**.

We were honoured to participate at the highest level at the first EU – LAS summit in 2019, and I assure you of our continued active engagement.

As a **Mediterranean country**, proud of our heritage and identity, Slovenia shares with this part of the world not only challenges but also many opportunities for cooperation. Stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region are of our vital interest.

We highly appreciate the commitments of this organisation and its Member States to peace and stability in the region, and your efforts towards solving disputes and conflicts.

In particular, we commend the devotion of this organisation to the **Palestinian question**. Slovenia strongly supports diplomatic activities aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just, and long-lasting peace in the Middle East.

It should be based on the principles of the two-state solution and should meet the legitimate expectations of both, Palestine – for its statehood, and Israel – for its security. We do not see any alternative to the political solution, achieved through negotiations.

We are concerned by the volatile situation on the ground and condemn the unilateral measures of the Israeli side, which present a serious threat to the prospect of the two-state solution.

Mr Chairman,

Since gaining our independence three decades ago, Slovenia has been **contributing its share to ensuring peace, security and prosperity**.

Slovenia actively participates in **peacekeeping and stabilization efforts**, including in the UN operations in the region, namely in UNIFIL and UNTSO.

We contribute to efforts for building peaceful, sustainable and resilient societies through **human rights, humanitarian action and sustainable**

**development initiatives.** Slovenia ranks seventh in the latest Global Peace Index.

We are proud of the organisation **ITF Enhancing Human Security**, established by Slovenia in 1998. Its activities focus on humanitarian demining, victim assistance and raising awareness of the dangers of mines in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya and Syria.

ITF and Slovenian Rehabilitation Institute Soča helped over 300 children from the Gaza Strip. In addition, both organizations provided training in Slovenia for many physiotherapists from Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

An important demonstration of the Mediterranean dimension of Slovenian foreign policy is its active involvement in the Union for the Mediterranean. We are hosting the **Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI)**, set up in 2008 as one of the six flagship projects, entrusted with the mission of fostering the Euro-Mediterranean higher education and research area.

EMUNI is a perfect tool to achieve the admirable goal of building people-to-people, cultural and educational bridges between the North and the South, the East and the West.

Excellences,

I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to present to you today a key priority of Slovenia's foreign policy in the multilateral system – **our candidature** for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the term 2024-2025, with the elections taking place next year.

**Traditional threats to international peace** and security remain of the utmost concern and need to be urgently addressed. As a candidate, Slovenia continues to stress the importance of reaching a peaceful solution not only to the Palestinian question, but also to crises in Yemen, Libya, Lebanon and others.

However, in recent years, there has been a growing need for the international community to address **new threats** as well. We now have to

turn our attention to climate change, health crisis, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, and water and food security.

Our vision for contributing to the work of the UN Security Council includes **building trust** and mutual respect with full respect for the international law and the UN Charter, encouraging inclusive debates and decision-making based on trustworthy data.

It further includes actions aimed at **securing future** by addressing root causes of threats to international peace such as inequality, indispensable role of women and youth in the conflict cycle, effects of climate change, water, food and energy security.

Before concluding, let me stress that you are always warmly **welcome to share with us your thoughts and expectations** on the work of the UN Security Council. Slovenia wants to know, what you deem important to be discussed and put on the agenda and how we can understand the relevant developments of your concern better.

Slovenia is and will remain **an open listener and an honest broker**.

Dear Chairman and Ministers,

Thank you for your attention.