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STATEMENT

BY

H.E. Mr. SAMUEL ŽBOGAR

**Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**Security Council Open Debate on
the Maintenance of International Peace and Security:
The Interdependence Between Security and Development**

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Candidate for the United Nations Security Council
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Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to thank Brazil and Foreign Minister Antonio de Aguiar Patriota for convening this important and timely open debate on interdependence of security and development. I welcome the decision to build upon the relevant conclusions of recent Security Council debates addressing peace and security from different angles. The adoption of the Presidential Statement is a significant contribution to this end.

I want to thank Secretary-General for his particularly insightful remarks that gave us clearer idea of the potential problems and possible opportunities. At the same time I appreciate the respective briefing by the representative of the World Bank.

Let me also use this opportunity to congratulate new non-permanent members of the SC, namely Colombia, Germany, India, Portugal and South Africa. I also wish to congratulate BiH for its successful Presidency of the SC in January

Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. President,

Over the past few years, increasingly more attention has been paid to conflict prevention and to the security-development nexus, including complementarity, coordination and coherence of multilateral cooperation. We have come to realize that in today's globalized world, distance has lost its meaning – a country may be situated on the other side of the globe, but its problems affects us all. We know that there can be neither peace nor security without sustainable development, and vice versa. It is more likely for conflicts to break out in countries with large population of those living in poverty and inequalities of wealth as well as in countries where human rights, rights of minorities and ethnic groups are not respected. We therefore need to focus on addressing the root causes of conflicts, achieving sustainable development, good governance, rule of law, promoting respect for human rights and culture of tolerance. Preventing unnecessary deaths and ensuring that all people live free from fear, free from want and in dignity, are a matter of solidarity and moral imperative. Over 1 billion people live in fragile and conflict affected states. We need to help build effective and resilient national institutions that prevent a country from slipping back into conflict. We need to invest more in prevention. Costs of conflicts are high and can spillover to neighboring countries and wider region. Economic development reduces the risk of the onset of the conflict while deprivation from economic and political participation can catalyze one.

Unstable security situations, armed violence and conflict, which lead to the breakdown of the rule of law and very often to massive human rights violations, pose a serious threat to human development and the progress made on MDGs. We need to effectively manage a crucial phase of transition between peacekeeping and peace building. Peacekeepers should be able to contribute to the early phases of peacebuilding, where they are in the position to do so. A well-coordinated and timely combination of political, development, security and humanitarian measures is needed in order to provide an efficient response to such situations. The Peacebuilding Commission plays an important role in this respect. Slovenia supports the strengthening of institutional arrangements between various United Nations actors, along with closer cooperation between the Security Council and the PBC. We welcome ongoing efforts to enhance coordination between the UN and the World Bank. There is a need to strengthen

international civilian capacities for post conflict peacebuilding and we welcome the recommendations of the SG review report on International Civilian Capacities in this respect.

Mr. President,

Slovenia has been an active participant in peacebuilding and institution building efforts in the Western Balkans and beyond. Slovenia implements various humanitarian and development cooperation projects to provide help in areas affected by war or other security challenges, for example demining projects carried out by the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) and the project of rehabilitation of children affected by the recent conflict in Gaza.

Humanitarian demining and mine victims assistance contribute to security in post-conflict societies and enable the restoration of economically viable lands and institutions, thus helping the victims and their families, while at the same time lessening the suffering and contributing to the rebuilding of social structures. Based on Slovenia's experiences in the Western Balkans, we can establish that humanitarian demining can offer the parties a technical platform for dialogue, which can consequently lead to regional cooperation.

Mr. President,

In societies where the local population suffers the consequences of conflict, the understanding of national and local contexts is crucial for effective conflict resolution and peacebuilding. However, one must not forget that political conditions are country-specific and that 'blueprint solutions' may not be universally applicable. For a successful human, economic and social development, dependence of a society on international assistance has to be gradually but steadfastly reduced and its self-reliance promoted. This has to be a step-by-step process; nevertheless, it is vital to increase the local population's stake and ownership as guiding principles of partnerships between security and development actors on the ground.

Therefore participation by civil society, including the most vulnerable groups, in the development and implementation of peacebuilding and post-conflict processes is of major importance. This is why we must consistently promote the significant role of women and encourage their participation and full involvement in post-conflict activities and societies, especially because women are an important driver of social, family and economic lives in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Mr. President,

Allow me to conclude by saying that the partnership between security and development needs to be strengthened and must include global, international, regional, and local actors as well as the civil society. There is no development without security, and the lack of security can seriously undermine development.

Thank you.