



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

## **STATEMENT**

**by**

**Ms. Petra Pauerová**

**Youth Delegate of Slovakia  
to the United Nations**

**Agenda Item 25: Social development, including questions relating to the world social  
situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family**

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**General debate of the UN GA Third Committee**

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**-Check against delivery-**

Mr Chair,  
Distinguished fellow delegates,

First, I would like to congratulate all my fellow youth delegates on having the privilege and honour to speak on behalf of their country in the organisation whose main decree is based upon respect for the principles of equal right and self-determination of people.

During the previous 10 days, I was privileged to hear many panel discussions, inspiring talks and speeches delivered by youth or by world-leaders. In all of them, I have observed one particular attribute, which deeply disconcerted me. The attribute of disconnect between us – the youth, and the leaders.

I would like to ask everyone here and everyone who is listening to this speech: Do we, the youth, and the leaders, live on a different planet?, and since one of the slogans for the fight against climate change is: “There is no planet B”, frankly, I do not think so.

It does not matter if we are speaking in terms of climate action or in terms of other sixteen SDGs, which we want to achieve by 2030. All these topics are represented and visualised as a circle. Circle, with no start or end, the circle that is connecting all the SDGs, since of them are inter-connected. We cannot achieve one, without achieving the others. Here, I will borrow words of my president, the president of Slovakia „we are the first generation that feels the impact of our reckless actions and we may be the last one that can do something about it “. We will not be the last one, we will be just failing individuals without working together on achieving these goals. Thriving collective work will not be achieved without mutual trust. We have to trust each other, that achieving SDGs is our common priority. World leaders and youth have to be included in the joint discussion, joint decision-making processes and joint action taking processes. Because this is the only way that makes us accountable among each other.

During the preparation for this speech, I went through the speech of my predecessor Dominik Porvažník, who was also demanding the mutual trust between the world leaders and the youth, as did many before him. I truly and deeply believe in the power of this institution. United Nations is the only institution with the power to bring all the world leaders together and make them accountable. I do believe that I will be the last youth delegate demanding the mutual trust between the youth and the leaders.

At the beginning of my speech, I was talking about the privilege to be here. I am honoured to be the UN Youth Delegate of Slovakia. But without being chosen as a winner in a narrow competition for the position of the Youth Delegate of my country, I would not probably be here any time soon. Therefore, I consider myself a lucky one, among my peers, students from other parts of the world. Simply because for a student it is not affordable to be an intern in New York, at the UN. Even though, I do not live that far away from the Vienna International Centre, still without any financial support, this possibility would just be surreal, as travel and living costs would lead my 22-years old self into a bankruptcy. Nowadays, we live in an era when the transition period between attending school and finding a job plays a crucial role in the future of youth. The shorter it is, the better. An aspect, which can significantly shorten this transition period, is a professional experience through paid internships.

We created the SDGs to provide everyone with fair opportunities, accessible quality education and guaranteed decent work. I admit, working towards the fulfilment of the SDGs might be an adventurous journey, during which a creative open-minded approach is needed. The youth has these characteristics, they only need to be taken on board in the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

I would like to conclude my speech with a plea for all privileged us to have the opportunity to speak up their voice on behalf of the weaker ones, disadvantaged ones and those, whose voice is not loud enough. You may ask why? Simply because no one's voice can be left behind.

Thank you, Mr Chair