



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement

by

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**Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations**

at the

1st Thematic discussion on Our Common Agenda

Thursday, February 10, 2022

10 February 2022

New York

Mr. President,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union earlier today. Allow me to make additional comments in national capacity.

Mr. President,

“Our Common agenda” cannot be considered as one of the regular reports of the Secretary General. On the contrary, it is by far the most crucial report for many years to come. Despite the fact that COVID-19 pandemic turned the tables and our priorities upside down, the 75th Anniversary was not designed only to celebrate the biggest achievements of the UN, but to reflect on the challenges laying in front of us. Pandemic only amplified this need.

The complexity of the Secretary-General’s report and its 90 recommendations show us how the UN urgently needs to be reformed: if the UN wants to be the effective and most appropriate world organization, it cannot solve the 21st century’s challenges with the 20th century tools. We hope that the upcoming 5 thematic clusters will produce the first ideas of which areas need to be focused on. This is just the beginning of a long process. Let me therefore flag some priorities that needs our attention.

Mr President,

I cannot start with anything else than “Youth”. Youth does not represent only the future generation of leaders, but should become an equal and welcome partner in our policy and decision-making already today. Without listening to the youth, engaging in mutual dialogue with them and ensuring their meaningful participation in our processes, we will fail in meeting our goal to leave no one behind. Moreover, our decisions today will affect, above all, lives of our young generations. Therefore, strengthening their voice should also be moral duty for us.

Slovakia welcomes the ideas and proposals of the Secretary-General in this cluster. The Secretary-General's intention to upgrade the UN Envoy on Youth to a fully-fledged and properly staffed UN Youth Office is especially encouraging. We will be awaiting further details about the mandate, tasks and activities of such an office in line with our goal to strengthen visibility, diversity and participation of youth delegates within the UN.

Hand in hand with the UN Youth Office, Secretary General proposed the creation of the Special Envoy for Future generations. This idea deserves close and positive consideration; but it also requires further clarification how this office would interact with the Youth Office, including the question of its financing.

Last, but not least, in order to provide young generations with fair opportunities to become leaders, we need to first of all ensure that every child has access to inclusive and quality education. In this context, we commend the Secretary General for his plans to promote and organize "Summit on Transforming Education" this year, drawing on long-standing relevant UN programs, like for example UNICEF and UNESCO.

Mr President,

Slovakia firmly believes that these discussions will help rebuild trust and renew the social contract between our nations, institutions and individuals, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

I thank you.

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