



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

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OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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## ADDRESS

BY PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA JANEZ JANŠA  
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

*New York, 24 September 2007*

### *Panel 1: "The challenge of adaptation – from vulnerability to resilience"*

*Chairmen,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Slovenia has the honor to address this gathering on behalf of the European Union.

The recent Fourth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirms that all regions will be affected by climate change and that developing countries, in particular the poorest among them, will experience larger losses.

Climate change is already affecting us all and adapting to its impacts is inevitable. Adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change will become increasingly important to limit these impacts and is a challenge for all. In the EU, a new initiative to identify options for early action in the EU, strengthen the integration of adaptation into EU external actions and expanding our knowledge base on the impacts of climate change was recently established.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In view of the high vulnerabilities of the developing countries and their lack of capacity to adapt, we must step up our support for the poorest among us, who had actually no share in the creation of the problem but who are already suffering disproportionate and irreversible damage. We need to fully integrate climate change into strategies for poverty reduction, as well as development planning and budgeting. Failing to do so will severely jeopardise the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

But stepping up adaptation efforts alone will not be a good enough alternative. Climate change presents a double change. Severe climate change consequences can only be prevented by early, deep cuts of greenhouse gas emissions. This is why the EU's objective is to keep the global average temperature increase below 2 grades Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. Beyond 2 grade Celsius change, the risk of dangerous and unpredictable climate change increases significantly and costs of adaptation escalate.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The size of the adaptation challenge is such, that we must urgently address the need for adaptation action and scale up support to match this challenge. These include "climate-proofing" our development cooperation, plans and programmes, mobilising the private sector and identifying new resources.

The EU believes that the UNFCCC should play a catalytic role in doing so, both in the immediate term and in a post 2012 scenario. Provisions and commitments for adaptation under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol should be enhanced and their implementation better coordinated to maximise their effectiveness in a post-2012 agreement. They should cover the full scope of adaptation activity, including both preventive and reactive measures, on the ground and in governance, activities at the project and programme level, activities at sectoral level and at a local, regional, national or multilateral level.

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*Chairmen,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I would now like to share some views with you in my national capacity.

Last week storms and heavy rain caused great damage in Slovenia. Human lives were lost, houses and roads were destroyed. Many people will need considerable help and it will take time before their lives go back to normal. It is especially in times of crisis that we learn to appreciate the value of friendship and partnership. Slovenia and its people accepted expressions of sympathy and offers of solidarity with sincere gratitude.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Slovenia acknowledges the importance of an inclusive, regional approach. We have taken a proactive role in establishing the Drought Management Centre for South Eastern Europe within the context of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

If we proceed with 'business as usual', climate change could threaten economic and social stability. On our common path of adaptation, the developed countries should help the developing ones, primarily with expertise, capacity building, adaptation technologies and financial assistance. Slovenia believes that the best adaptation is mitigation, combined with sustainable economic development.

When Slovenia takes over the EU Presidency on 1 January next year, it intends to continue the fine work of the Portuguese and the previous presidencies towards achieving agreed EU goals and commitments in the field of climate change. We will do our best to contribute our fair share to the global response. This is the greatest challenge of our generation. Only by working together can we put an end to climate change before it puts an end to mankind.

Thank you.