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**TRANSCRIPT
OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA,
JANEZ JANŠA,
AT THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD WITH UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-
GENERAL BAN KI-MOON**

Ljubljana, 20 July 2012

PRIME MINISTER JANŠA: A warm welcome to everyone here today. Slovenia is honoured to play host today to the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-Moon, for the second time since he has been in office. We first met in this capacity at the beginning of 2008 when Slovenia took over the EU Council Presidency; then, like today, our talks largely focused on the situation concerning stability and efforts for peace in the region. In addition, today's visit by the UN Secretary-General coincides with the 20th anniversary of Slovenia's membership of the United Nations. During this period, Slovenia's efforts were aimed at being a credible partner in securing peace and stability; I think that Slovenia has proved that it is a credible partner through its efforts and representatives participating in peace organisations and activities under the auspices of the United Nations.

The current developments in our ever more globalised world — where things and events are interlinked and mutually dependent — additionally confirm the need for the United Nations as an organisation distinguished by a global approach and efficient action. The values spread by the United Nations change the world for the better by themselves. Efforts for peace, stability, democracy and respect of human rights are values which – even without the backing of relevant institutional instruments – function by themselves, and it goes without saying that their functioning will be ever more effective when backed by relevant institutions. The United Nations in today's world constitutes a key factor in global peace and stability. Slovenia has demonstrated its commitment to these goals.

We also advocate some of the steps towards reform that we discussed during our today's meeting. We are glad and thankful for the Secretary-General's presentation of some of the steps to be made, which enjoy Slovenia's support and are aimed at enhancing the transparency and efficiency of the United Nations.

We have devoted a great deal of time to the situation in the region. The Secretary-General is visiting a number of countries in the region and the Western Balkans. We have agreed on the need to reduce the dependence of certain countries in the region on the international community, on the acceleration of their integration processes into Euro-Atlantic structures and on doing everything possible to prevent the risk of repeated incidents from occurring such as those in Srebrenica or similar events that took place after the Second World War in many countries of this region. We are thankful, that during his visit, the UN Secretary-General will go to Srebrenica. This is an important symbolic act calling for some additional efforts regarding adjustments to relevant international law.

In future, Slovenia will participate in activities aimed at amending the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It is certain that the instruments available to the United Nations or other global organisations subject to the United Nations authority also need to be reinforced in legal terms; in addition, actions aimed at preventing such drastic violations of human rights are already underway. We also discussed the situation in Syria. As you may know, Slovenia supports the plan put together by the UN Secretary-General special envoy, Kofi Annan, and condemns the mass violations of human rights and attacks against the

civilian population in Syria which, unfortunately, have increased in intensity. Slovenia finds the UN Security Council blockade regrettable because this has repeatedly prevented the United Nations from using instruments that are aimed at bringing an early end to the conflict.

In addition, we informed the UN Secretary-General of some of the activities which have been conducted by Slovenia and are in line with UN objectives. As you may know, the Euro-Mediterranean University is headquartered in Slovenia and strives to promote the alliance, civilisations and the East-West dialogue in the region; we intend to invest further in some of these activities in the future. We informed the UN Secretary-General of Slovenia's intention continue to actively participate in the peacekeeping operations under the auspices of the United Nations in the future; these include the activities and operations under different peacekeeping operation mandates currently involving the participation of 18 Slovenian army troops in Lebanon, the Golan Heights and one in Syria.

This year, the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon started his second five-year term of office. The consensus reached on granting the second term of office to the present Secretary-General, which is one of the most responsible and difficult duties of office in the world, shows the satisfaction of the United Nations members with his work during the first term. During this period, the United Nations made significant progress and achieved important successes. The steps introduced personally by Mr Ban Ki-Moon helped the United Nations increase its reputation and real power of authority, which was evidenced in several very effective activities regarding either the prevention of conflict in the world or successful interventions to stop the conflicts involving, in particular, mass violations of human rights.

Dear Secretary-General, let me once again express my satisfaction with your visit today, with the fruitful talks we have had, and with the commitments made regarding our future cooperation.