



Agenda item: 7

General Debate

Statement by:

Slovenia



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
**16th Session of the United Nations Conference
on Trade And Development (UNCTAD16)**
General debate

Geneva, 21 October 2025

Excellencies, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to add a few remarks **in our national capacity**. We meet at a moment of **global transformation**. The world faces converging challenges — climate change, widening inequalities, rapid technological shifts, and threats to peace and security. These challenges transcend borders and demand collective response.

Against this backdrop, **Slovenia reaffirms its support for UNCTAD's work** in advancing inclusive and sustainable trade and development. As a small and open economy, **Slovenia values the importance of a fair, transparent, and rules-based multilateral trading system, with the WTO in its core**.

We recognize the complementary role of UNCTAD in ensuring that global trade contributes to growth, stability, and development. **We welcome UNCTAD's analytical work and capacity-building efforts** to assist developing countries, promote digital and green transitions, and strengthen global trade resilience.

UNCTAD16 is taking place in times of growing needs and decreasing means. Slovenia stands **ready to engage in shaping a targeted, coherent, efficient and effective workplan** for the next quadrennial. **We remain committed to constructive multilateral cooperation** in preserving trade as a driver of sustainable growth and shared prosperity for all.

Multilateralism is a course of action, which has been historically proven as the most efficient response to multifaced global challenges. Within multilateral framework, all three pillars of sustainable development need to be equally addressed and maintained, namely environmental protection, social inclusion and economic growth. Slovenia's economic transformation is anchored in the principle of equity, ensuring that geographic and socio-economic background are not barriers to opportunity. This is demonstrated by a robust, data-backed framework that invests in a school system where a student's success is among the least determined by their background compared to other developed countries. This commitment is extended through one of the EU's most effective lifelong learning systems, actively reskilling our workforce for the green and digital transitions.

Furthermore, our model is unequivocally inclusive: we are systematically empowering women, youth, and vulnerable groups to ensure their full and meaningful participation in both society and the economy. The inclusivity is operationalized through targeted regional development and cohesion policies that bridge the digital and opportunity divide, ensuring every region contributes to and benefits from our nation's progress.

Sustainability is central to Slovenia's vision for the future.

We are advancing renewable energy, circular economy practices, and sustainable tourism, while protecting our forests, waters, and biodiversity. The transition to a low-carbon economy is an opportunity to create new jobs, new industries, and renewed trust between people and our planet.

Excellencies,

let us reaffirm once again: **multilateral cooperation is the most efficient tool for global progress.**

The United Nations, UNCTAD, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and our Pact for the Future remain our guiding frameworks.

In this spirit, **we welcome the adoption of the Compromiso de Sevilla, which provides a** blueprint for modernizing multilateral institutions, while mobilizing us all to defend the rules-based international order.

Slovenia believes that **capacity building** lies at the heart of sustainable transformation. Let me outline a few of our projects which are making a difference in that regard:

Since 2001, the Ljubljana-based Centre of Excellence in Finance has supported countries in South-East and Eastern Europe through training, knowledge exchange, and technical assistance in public financial management and central banking.

These efforts help strengthen domestic resource mobilization and foster more equitable fiscal systems — building the foundations of stability and growth.

The launch of the **TRISAT-R** satellite, developed by the University of Maribor, is a testament to Slovenia's advanced capabilities in the NewSpace sector. This technology is being leveraged for tangible impact in Kenya agricultural and environmental sector through a Sinergise's platform, which processes vast amounts of satellite data. Slovenia is exporting its renowned water management expertise to the Western Balkans, a region facing significant challenges with water security, aging infrastructure, and pollution. **Slovenian Water Agency** plays a pivotal role, sharing its proven methodologies for river basin management, flood forecasting, and early warning systems with neighboring countries,

Distinguished delegates,

Slovenia may be small in size, but we are large in commitment — to multilateral cooperation, solidarity and concrete projects for sustainable partnerships.

Thank you.