



**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Darja Bavdaž Kuret,  
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations**

**at the  
57th Session of the Commission for Social Development**

**Agenda Item 3(a) and (b)  
General discussion**

**New York, 14 February 2019**

Mr Chairperson,

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement and the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of Friends of older persons. At the outset I wish to congratulate you and the members of the bureau, on your election and wish you all the success in your endeavors.

Mr Chairperson,

The global commitment to poverty eradication, addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion must stay on top of the agenda and should be a priority in every state. Empowerment in particular the most vulnerable groups such as women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities etc. is essential part of strategies aimed at poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all. National policies must aim to reach those often most vulnerable and in need, in particular young, people with disabilities, older persons and long-term unemployed and those protractedly dependent on social transfers.

In Slovenia, social development strategy is guided by social policy as a set of objectives, measures and other instruments developed and implemented by the state with a view to ensuring that individuals and groups are able to satisfy personal and social interests and act as full and equal members of the society. Preventing poverty and social exclusion is one of the key objectives of social policy in the Slovenia and requires a comprehensive, coordinated and integrated approach.

Mr Chairperson,

Slovenia remains convinced of the necessity of formulating a comprehensive human rights framework for older persons. Therefore, Slovenia is a continuous supporter of the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing. Its annual sessions present a good opportunity for the international community – states, NHRIs, experts and civil society representatives alike – to exchange views and contemplate on the way forward.

In January 2018 the Slovenian Government and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) co-organized a High Level Conference on Policies for Equal Ageing: A Life-Course Approach. It drew on research into how inequalities in education, health, employment and income are compounded as people age and on OECD policy proposals to prevent these inequalities from developing.

Mr Chairperson,

The challenges faced by today's youth must be addressed by targeted approaches in employment policy, the labour market and education as well as housing and health. Education and employment are particularly important for enhancing social inclusion, therefore we strive to allocate necessary resources to support these policy areas.

One of priorities of the Slovenian National Programme for Youth is the improvement of programmes that support social inclusion of youth with fewer opportunities. These programmes include a variety of measures that support education possibilities, such as government scholarships, welfare benefits and different measures for increasing the inclusiveness of vocational and education programmes for unemployed youth. The Government also supports housing for young people, as for financial reasons they are staying at home well into the adulthood.

Mr Chairperson,

Slovenia also attaches special attention to ensure the accessibility, inclusive education and employment in open market, social security and reducing discrimination based on disability. The Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act was passed to regulate equal opportunities and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities in all areas of social life and is one of the most important documents regulating this area.

In the World of work Slovenia prohibits discrimination on the grounds of disability as well as other personal circumstances as stipulated in the Employment Relationship Act. Specific right to vocational rehabilitation and certain employment-related issues of persons with disabilities are defined by Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons Act.

The principles of social justice and equal opportunities for all are important elements of Slovenia's second National Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities for the period 2014–2021. The purpose of the Action Programme is to promote, protect and ensure full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. Its objectives and measures are in line with Agenda 2030, which is being implemented through the National Action Programme.

Slovenia looks forward to fruitful discussions of these issues.  
Thank you.