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**SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA DR. MILAN
BRGLEZ**

**Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments
New York, 31 August – 2 September 2015**

**General debate: "Placing democracy at the Service of Peace and Sustainable
Development, Building the World the People Want«**

Dear Chair,

The year 2015 represents a milestone in the development. In fact, in September this year, the United Nations Member States will adopt in New York the Post-2015 Agenda defining the new international community's approach to development. This is an important turning point at which we need to confront the mixed results of the Millennium Development Goals process and at which the parliaments must play an important role.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union, being the umbrella international parliamentary organization, has been devoting special attention to this issue for many years. The

decision to dedicate this conference to the development agenda is thus a logical continuation of the hitherto efforts of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and rounds off the close partnership between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations.

Being a member of the Open Working Group, Slovenia actively participated in the drafting of the Post-2015 Agenda, co-shaped the decisions of the Council of the European Union in such regard, and has been participating in all relevant OECD processes.

I would like to support the commitments by the international community to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. All the three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental – must be integrated in a balanced manner. In this context, emphasis should also be placed on the correlation between poverty and other global challenges, such as sustainable growth, climate change, sustainable management and use of natural resources, water and sanitation, resistance to natural disasters, health, social protection, and inequality.

The new Agenda must rely on a human rights-based approach, whereby the respect for human rights is a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development and the basis for building peaceful and stable societies. Slovenia is particularly committed to ensuring gender equality, women's empowerment, and the rights of children, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups.

At this point, I would like to note that Slovenia stands as candidate for membership in the UN Human Rights Council for the period 2016-2018. Our candidacy is based on three commitments, among which the incorporation in the development agenda of human rights, also including environmental aspects.

Slovenia supports the efforts towards an inclusive, effective and genuine global partnership based on the established principles of common and shared responsibility. In this context, genuine relations between the developed and the developing countries are of fundamental importance. We need to listen to the needs and interests of the latter and help implement them, and move away from the sadly all too often unidirectional and unilateral understanding of development by the key international development institutions. Change does not necessarily

ensure development and this is something all the development partners should keep in mind.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The new global partnership should aim to mobilize action both by the governments as well as by other players, including the private sector, local players, civil society, academia, philanthropic and humanitarian organizations and innovative partnerships, and ultimately also the parliament. It is important that the final agreement on the new global partnership reflects a strong consensus among all UN members. Slovenia therefore supports the establishment of a robust mechanism to monitor responsibility and calls for an efficient measurement of progress made in achieving the objectives of the new Agenda.

With the adoption of the Agenda, Slovenia will be committed at different levels. We will implement the sustainable development goals in line with national circumstances and the level of our own development. At the international level, we will continue to contribute, as a donor of the official development assistance, to a

fairer and more balanced international development. We consider international development cooperation to be an investment that brings the desired and positive results to both the partner countries and Slovenia in its role of a donor.

The Agenda will place the people at the forefront of the development paradigm, and the role of national parliaments will therefore be particularly important. As the directly elected representatives of the people, MPs represent the most direct link between individuals and the global political environment. It is on us to carefully and responsibly raise public awareness of the invaluable importance of international development cooperation, which represents a key tool for managing and reducing the alarmingly growing number of global inequalities and thus contributes to raising the level of human development and human security. After all, it is only this kind of development and security that truly matters at the end of the day.

Thank you.