

**Address by State Secretary Samuel Žbogar  
at the high-level segment of the 113th Session of the IOM Council  
Geneva, 29 November 2022**

Intersection between climate change, food security, migration and displacement

Dear Director General,  
Distinguished colleagues,

The international community needs to do more than it did at the recent COP. For many people, the world is already unlivable. The 2021 number of 20+ million weather-related displaced people is overwhelming. And the number will only keep rising. This year's weather events were a brutal wake-up call for all of us.

A healthy environment is a human right. The UN General Assembly recognised this right last July. The process leading to this recognition was a decade long, and Slovenia was in the core group of countries promoting it. If we are to prevent climate-related displacements, respect for this right is absolutely vital.

Slovenia therefore welcomes the IOM's long-standing focus on climate and water. Your strong presence at the recent COP was very important, as is the inclusion of the notion of displacement into the COP Cover Decision. Slovenia was pleased to be part of your side event on building community resilience and addressing human mobility challenges.

Indeed, boosting local resilience and local ownership is key.

To this end, Slovenia has greatly increased its development assistance and financial support over the past years. We have doubled our climate funds and tripled our contribution to food security. We also pay special attention and contribute to the IOM's WASH Programme.

One of our most serious concerns is climate security with its big impact on human mobility. Slovenia calls for its integration in the work of the Security Council, which

should address it hand in hand with other UN organisations and bodies, like the IOM. The interconnection between climate and peace is often understood differently by different countries. We need to reach a common understanding, develop a common narrative, and above all – engage in effective action.

If Slovenia is elected to the Security Council for the 2024–2025 term, it will advocate climate as a vehicle for human security and peace, along with the inclusion of women and marginalised groups. Women are the driving force behind both peace and climate.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The rapid increase of *nature*-related disasters is overwhelming, and we – the international community – struggle to respond. Our capacities are stretched to the limit. However, mere responding is not enough; we must strive to prevent them, notably by rapidly cutting emissions.

Similarly, we must stand together to better prevent conflicts as *man*-made disasters. Not only do they have a huge impact on human security, but they also affect the environment and food security, like the current conflicts in Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti and other hotspots around the globe.

Thank you.