



Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Geneva, 25. april 2017

Intervention by Slovenian State Secretary at the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy – Round Table II: Subregional Cooperation for SDG Implementation

Let me first welcome the focus of the Round Table. To succeed in our global aim to reach the SDGs by the year 2030 states and all other stakeholders have to work together, not only on a national level. Cooperation, sharing policy solutions, best practices and challenges in SDG implementation on a regional, sub regional and international level is very much important, due to the horizontal and cross-bording nature of the SDGs.

Countries of the UNECE region are **facing common challenges** – like sluggish growth after the financial crisis, high unemployment especially among youth, rising inequalities in various forms, unsustainable consumption and production patterns. Too many people are still left behind, marginalized or face limitations in economic opportunities and other inequalities. And despite many important accomplishments, the region as a whole has still a very large ecological footprint.

The new Agenda responds also to another global challenge that the UNECE region and other parts of the world are facing - **The global migrations crisis that requires urgent action.** First and foremost, we should address its root causes and prevent further loss of life. Slovenia together with other EU countries has intensified the activities in resolving the migration crisis in Europe. The main principles of our actions are based on humanity and solidarity, but also security. We should pool our efforts in combating illegal migration and suppressing the trafficking of migrants and human beings. This cannot be the responsibility of any one country – it is a shared responsibility of the whole international community.

For Slovenia, a small country, the sub-regional level of cooperation, that connects the local and national levels on the one hand and the regional and global levels on the other hand, is very important for achieving the SDGs. Implementation of the SDGs calls all countries to put in place the right governance structures, develop policies aimed at achieving the whole 2030 Agenda and to measure where they stand relative to the SDGs. Each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and national level is the primary level for follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, whereas national efforts in achieving the Agenda 2030 goals and targets should be supported by enabling regional and international environment. Support of regional, sub-regional and international organizations in this regard should be coherent and integrated.