



Predsednica Republike Slovenije

NATAŠA PIRC MUSAR

**Speech of the President of the Republic of Slovenia
Nataša Pirc Musar
at the closing ceremony of the assembly on the occasion of the 8th
International Day of Women and Girls in Science**

United Nations Headquarters, 10 February 2023

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In 2023, we mark the 100th anniversary since the first Nobel Prize was awarded to a woman. This exceptional woman of course was Marie Skłodowska-Curie and this, her first Nobel Prize, was a recognition for her achievements in Physics.

Her dreams of science, her hunger for scientific knowledge and her arduous journey to acquiring scientific education remain an inspiration to numerous women still today.

Encourage women to enter vocational training and STEM oriented studies. They make outstanding contributions to the benefit of their societies and the humanity. We were grateful to and inspired by a group of Slovenian mothers and scientists who shared their knowledge and advice during the Covid-19 pandemic through a social media group called Science Mamas' Vaccine Forum.

From the stamps featuring Slovenian women scientists by our national Post Office, to the Female Engineer of the Year award, which I am the proud patron of – all activities to popularize science with women and girls and to celebrate their scientific achievements are important.

When women are included in the management of natural resources, the results are better for everyone - socially, economically, and environmentally. This is undoubtedly true when it comes to managing water. Women's voices and experiences must be part of designing, implementing and evaluating policies and programs in the field of water and sustainable development, including water as a human right.

As the co-founder of the International Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI) under the auspices of UNESCO Slovenia is committed to develop and use its global scientific and research network for sustainable, ethical and gender-sensitive use of artificial intelligence.

Slovenia will continue to promote gender equality throughout political, social, cultural, security and economic sphere. Slovenia will advocate for full access of women and girls to quality education, including digital literacy. Slovenia will encourage international cooperation and equal opportunities in science. Slovenia will help its development partners to reach these goals.