



Predsednica Republike Slovenije

**NATAŠA PIRC MUSAR**

The 5th UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries

High-level Thematic Round Table 5: Addressing climate change and supporting the environment

***Statement by H.E. Dr. Nataša Pirc Musar, President of the Republic of Slovenia and Co-Chair of the Roundtable***

Mr Prime Minister, Excellencies,  
Distinguished Panelists,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour to co-chair this High-level Thematic Round Table with the distinguished Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Mr. *Kausea Natano*. I have a very good reason for sharing my sincere sentiments with you about my presence. In Slovenia, a small country by size yet a biodiversity hotspot in Europe, we are particularly sensitive to the negative consequences of climate change, visible in changing rainf

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It is my great honour to co -chair this High -level Thematic Round Table with the distinguished Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Mr. *Kausea Natano*. I have a very good reason for sharing my sincere sentiments with you about my presence. In Slovenia, a small country by size yet a biodiversity hotspot in Europe, we are particularly sensitive to the negative consequences of climate change, visible in changing rainfall and general seasonal patterns, resulting in floods, droughts, and wildfires at an unprecedented scale.

For Slovenia, climate change is not just a human security issue, but it is also a major international security issue. Not only does it exacerbate the existing security risks in areas with ongoing conflicts, but it also creates new sources of instability and new or increased vulnerabilities. The recent UN Security Council Open debate on the impact of sea -level rise on international peace and security reflected these realities.

Indeed, no country is immune to climate change, however, the least developed countries unfortunately are suffering the most, also due to the ongoing lack of global solidarity. In this regard, I hope that we will use this roundtable to discuss past mistakes from which we can and need to learn, to address current challenges, and to identify obstacles to be effectively addressed so that the vision for the least developed countries as laid out in the Doha Programme of Action will materialise. And let me be clear: there will be no real progress without effective and inclusive participation of everyone, of all parts of our societies, including those that are often marginalised, do not sit at the same decision making table, or participate but are not heard. Women and youth, indigenous peoples, and different minorities have a real stake in societal progress and well-being. They are key in helping avert climate breakdown.

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Access to top science and technology, and to innovation as a means to address threats resulting from climate change on spot is of critical importance. Take the example of early warning systems. We need integrated planning that addresses mitigation and adaptation, integrated water resources management, and disaster risk reduction. The UN Secretary-General's appeal for an Action Plan for the Early Warnings for All within the next five years is well placed, since 50% of the world's population is not protected by early warning systems. This needs to change, but it will not change without proper tools – that is, state-of-the-art technology.

However, acquiring proper tools requires proper financing. And proper financing requires the reform of the international financial system as we know it.

In this respect, I am pleased to see that ideas such as the Bridgetown initiative receive close attention worldwide. [As has been pointed out by a high-level official](#), in the context of the IMF and the World Bank reform, "When global financial institutions were set, there were no common global challenges like climate change. Now we have to mobilize to address them."

Needless to say, the "now" is long overdue. Many excellent ideas and solutions will be presented at today's roundtable, and many others have been on the agenda at multiple multilateral forums for decades. Technology transfer has been regularly on the international agenda at least since the 1970s. Unfortunately, too often in the past, the overhaul of the financial system created in 1945 was considered by many as wishful thinking. Today, I am pleased to see that more and more global decision-makers realise that this has become nothing less than solidarity- and survival-driven *realistic* thinking.

I look forward to a productive discussion.