**Speech of the President of the Republic of Slovenia**

**Nataša Pirc Musar**

 **at the reception of African Ministers’ Council on Water**

New York, 22 March 2023

Check against delivery.

*Dear Minister Sewilam,*

*Dear Ministers,*

*Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen.*

*I am happy to see that the strong partnership between the EU and AMCOW will manifest itself through tangible cooperation on transboundary water management.*

*Slovenia has very good experience in this field and is willing to share it with our African partners through the Team Europe Initiative.*

*We are also ready to offer our expertise on the topic of the accession process to the UNECE Water Convention. Slovenia will chair the convention from 2024 to 2027, and I am inviting all of you to the meeting of the state parties in October next year in Slovenia.*

*It gives me great pleasure to address this gathering together with the Egyptian Minister of Water and Irrigation. Putting water on the agenda of the COP27 is a great achievement that should be repeated in other relevant intergovernmental processes.*

*The EU and AMCOW also share the support for the proposal to appoint a UN Special Envoy for Water.*

*We need a strong voice to keep water visible on our agendas, motivate coherent action and funding, and keep track of the follow-up process to the conference.*

*I would love to see a strong African woman take this position.*