



Predsednica Republike Slovenije

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**Address by the President of the Republic of Slovenia on the
Occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Adoption of the
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**

New York, 21. September 2025

Mr President,

We are here to celebrate the positive impact of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action on the lives of countless women around the world. Laws have been adopted and measures for gender equality taken that have benefited women, including in Slovenia. However, we also need to face a difficult truth: progress has been uneven and many of our hard-won gains are now at risk. Sexual and gender-based violence, economic inequality, a lack of sexual and reproductive rights, political underrepresentation and the systemic discrimination of women persist.

Real change requires making gender equality a genuine priority, including in peace and security. If not now, when – at a time when the world is facing a record number of conflicts? Conflicts that claim a devastating number of civilian lives, as in Gaza, where two-thirds of the victims are women and children.

Simply put: the inclusion of women is a guarantee for peace.

It is also high time that the UN's leadership reflects the diversity of the people it serves. This calls for bold action from all of us: to nominate, support and elect women to the highest offices – both here at the UN and in our own countries.

After 80 years, the United Nations must lead by example. We cannot afford to miss yet another chance to appoint the first woman Secretary-General. Nor can we afford to move forward into a future where still only 6% of General Assembly Presidents are women.

Let me be clear: the issue has never been about merit – there are plenty smart and capable women. What is lacking is the will to open doors.

Dear all,

Let us invest in women's leadership and ensure that every girl can live a life of opportunity. I know that women and girls in Afghanistan, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and beyond are counting on us.

We must redouble efforts to fully implement the Beijing Platform for Action. This means investing in women's leadership, safeguarding sexual and reproductive rights, and ensuring that every girl can live a life full of opportunity.

Thank you.