



Predsednica Republike Slovenije

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**Govor predsednice Republike Slovenije Nataše Pirc Musar
na 3. dialogu voditeljev z naslovom: »Nosilci sprememb: Uporaba znanosti,
tehnologije, inovacij in podatkov za ukrepe preobrazbe**

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*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am pleased indeed that I have been given an opportunity to co-chair this panel. I believe that the potential of science, technology, innovation and data is vast and, at the mid-point of the SDGs review, greatly underused.

I come from Slovenia, a country that is actively working for an inclusive, ethical, trustworthy and human rights-based approach to AI. So perhaps, by way of introducing this panel, it might be of interest if I shared some good practices with you in this regard.

A good example of interregional cooperation is the Digital for Development Hub (D4D) that the EU is collaborating on with other regions. Slovenia is particularly committed to its operation in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a special focus on AI.

Slovenia hosts an International Research Centre in Artificial Intelligence – IRCAI, which operates under the auspices of UNESCO.

The Centre, together with its partners, is developing open-access AI solutions applicable to the SDGs. Its Water Observatory is a commitment to the UN Water Action Agenda.

The same goes for the Slovenian Centre of Excellence for Space Science and Technologies. Space-SI is working with satellite data and digital models of ecosystems to build resilience against climate change.

I am happy to say that later this year, Space-SI will be joining the global initiative “Twinning of Rivers”, led by Ganga, Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies. The goal is to extend at least 22 twinning programmes for sharing knowledge and satellite technologies. This multistate collaboration aims at transboundary source-to-sea streams in Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America and the Caribbean.

I hope that this brief presentation of good practices and commitments from my country might lead to fruitful debate, with a dynamic exchange of views leading to new ideas. Before passing the floor to the first discussant, allow me to make one final remark.

At this time, AI has a critical gender problem. Nearly all virtual assistants – think of Siri or Alexa – have female voices. This year we are witnessing a boom in AI chatbots, such as Chat GPT. These algorithms feed on online input and this includes expressions of sexism and racism.

Created predominantly by men, AI contains gender biases that may be self-perpetuating, if they remain unaddressed.

Thus, I would like to conclude with a call for quick and decisive proactive policies for including more women in the entire AI life cycle.

Thank you.