

General debate: Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all

Distinguished Chair, dear colleagues,

Good governance and the role of communities, which we have placed at the heart of today's session, are closely linked to the fundamental values of our society. Social justice is not merely a matter of social transfers – above all, it is about creating conditions in which every individual has the opportunity to develop their abilities, to work in dignity and to participate fully in society. Economic development and social security are therefore two closely interconnected goals.

Slovenia is among the countries with a relatively low risk of poverty, but this does not mean that all challenges have been overcome. We continue to face social exclusion, demographic changes and growing demand for high-quality social services. In addressing these challenges, particular attention must be given to older people, families, persons with disabilities, the long-term unemployed and other vulnerable groups.

Our aim is to build a society of equal opportunities in which social policy goes hand in hand with responsible economic policy. Lasting social security can only be ensured through a successful economy, high employment and a supportive environment for entrepreneurship, innovation and the creation of quality jobs. At the same time, the state must remain efficient, transparent and responsive to people's needs.

For that reason, Slovenia will continue to develop measures that promote employment, remove administrative barriers and strengthen social inclusion. Particular attention is given to people who need support in entering the labour market, as we believe that decent work is the best path to social security and personal dignity. We will also maintain an effective social safety net for those who are unable to secure a basic level of social protection for themselves.

In this context, I would particularly like to highlight the further strengthening of the pension and long-term care systems. Long-term care must be organised so as to ensure high-quality, accessible and financially sustainable services for all users. Equally important is the need to improve access to housing, particularly for young people and young families, while promoting different forms of housing development and more effective management of the housing stock.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Building trust and creating opportunities for all remain a shared responsibility of the state, local communities, social partners and civil society. Only through responsible management of public finances, the promotion of economic prosperity, stronger solidarity and equal opportunities will we be able to maintain a high quality of life and social cohesion in our society. As parliamentarians, we have an important responsibility in this regard. I therefore welcome today's debate and believe that it will help us find solutions for a better future for all our citizens.

Thank you.