



**Statement at the first Ministerial meeting of the
Coalition for the Sahel held by videoconference,
12 June 2020**

**Mr. Anže Logar,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia**

Monsieur le Haut représentant,
Messieurs les Ministres,
Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je tiens, tout d'abord, à remercier les organisateurs de cette rencontre très importante qui nous réunit aujourd'hui pour joindre nos forces au bénéfice des pays du Sahel mais aussi plus largement, au bénéfice de la région, de l'Afrique et de l'Europe.

Slovenia has been following with great concern the escalation and spread of violence, as well as the worsening of the humanitarian situation in the Sahel. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the already alarming situation.

In these circumstances, we believe it is of utmost importance to increase our efforts and reaffirm our joint commitment to and responsibility for the security and stability of the Sahel.

In line with this, I cannot but agree with the previous speakers in commending and welcoming the establishment of the International Coalition for the Sahel.

Slovenia believes that the integrated architecture of the Coalition that builds on four pillars is solid. It allows us to step up our efforts to improve security, stability and the overall development in the region in a comprehensive way.

I firmly believe that sustainable change in the Sahel can only be achieved through an integrated approach. Military and counter-terrorism activities need to be coupled with international humanitarian support and development cooperation, in full respect of human rights. In addition, efforts must be directed towards strengthening the authority and improve the efficiency of governance in the G5 Sahel States together with regional ownership.

In my view, the nexus between peace, development and humanitarian action is crucial for achieving long-lasting progress and stability in the Sahel. Building on this impetus is more important than ever.

Thank you for your attention. Merci.