REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

SLOVENIA
AID & PARTNERSHIPS

School Meals Coalition
Nutrition, Health and Education for Every Child

COMMITMENT DOCUMENT FOR SLOVENIA

Slovenia envisages a world where every child has the opportunity to enjoy a healthy and nutritious meal in school by 2030. Slovenia underscores the urgency to act now to protect the most vulnerable children from hunger and malnutrition, leaving no one behind.

We recognise that school meals play an important role in food systems transformation as they combat child hunger, poverty and multiple forms of malnutrition. They encourage children to attend school and support children's learning, long-term well-being and health. We believe that school meal programmes help to improve and diversify children's diets, teach children how to eat better and support national and local markets and food systems by using locally grown food where possible.

School meals promote gender equality by supporting girls and boys to attend and graduate from school and reducing the risk of child marriage, early pregnancies and gender-based violence. They also contribute towards a holistic approach to child well-being through the integration of education, nutrition, health, and social protection interventions.

Higher quality school meal programmes strengthen natural and local food systems, markets and economy, by using locally grown food where appropriate, and expanding opportunities for smallholder farmers and local catering businesses, many led by women.

Overall, Slovenia expresses its strong support for school meal programmes as a policy lever to drive and strengthen human capital, social and economic growth and sustainable food systems.

Slovenia is honoured to announce the following commitments towards upholding the goals of the School Meals Coalition and achieving the Agenda 2030 objectives:

At the national level:

- Slovenia supports and will continue to support the inclusion of organic, seasonal and locally produced foods in school meals to ensure the most adequate, high-quality and nutritious school meals in Slovenia.

- Slovenia will strive to ensure free school meals for all primary school pupils as of 1 September 2027.

- Slovenia will continue to implement the EU School Scheme, which supports the distribution of an additional free meal of fruit and vegetables or milk and dairy products to schoolchildren, with the aim of teaching them about healthy eating habits (cooking workshops, tastings, etc.) and reconnecting them to agriculture (school gardens, farm visits, etc.).

- Slovenia will continue to promote short supply chains, seasonality and the supply of environmentally friendly products.

- Slovenia will encourage the supply of local food to minimise the negative environmental impact of transport and thereby ensure higher food quality.

- Slovenia will also foster active involvement of schoolchildren and youth in initiatives related to healthy eating, sustainable nutrition and food systems.

- Slovenia will enhance coordination with relevant national stakeholders, agricultural and farmers' associations, academic and research institutions, young farmers and students to achieve holistic progress in planning school meal programmes and overall food production and manufacturing.

At the international level:

- Slovenia will advocate for the inclusion of school meals in global agendas at relevant international events, emphasising the importance of the Coalition's goals. We will promote the Coalition during exchanges with high representatives of states and governments.

- By supporting school meal programmes, Slovenia is committed to contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, consequently, to the 2030 Agenda, in particular to the following SDGs: SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture), SDG 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) and SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

- Slovenia will encourage the sharing of best practices and peer-to-peer learning among Coalition members to enhance the quality of school meal programmes.

- Slovenia will continue its financial support for humanitarian food aid.

- Slovenia will support and participate in the planning of school meal programmes in emergency and fragile contexts, such as those provided by the World Food Programme.

- Slovenia will place special emphasis on food security in its bilateral development and humanitarian assistance, developing projects in partner countries that will involve Slovenian practitioners and experts, as well as their knowledge and best practices.