



My name is Dr. Katherine Pettus from the International Association for Hospice and **Palliative** Care and a member of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing. My questions come from a collaborative process among the Major Groups and other stakeholders.

We would like to commend the government of Slovenia for including civil society in the presentation, as well as for the special youth report written by the National Youth Council.

We would also like to commend Slovenia for being part of the group of Friends on the rights of older persons at the UN in Geneva and New York, and Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing here at the UN.

MY organisation would like to thank Slovenia for the progress you have made in developing palliative care for your citizens, an essential service under Target 3.8.

We would like to address three points on the basis of your report:

In the VNR, you recognise a need for a more comprehensive approach to dialogue with civil society. We urge you to dialogue with stakeholders in all their diversity, including those social groups, such as youth and older persons, who are more likely to be marginalized or left behind.

Will there be further regular, transparent and inclusive consultations with a diversity of stakeholders to strengthen participation in the development and implementation of the upcoming National Development Strategy? Will you set up a specific consultation body or forum in which representatives of all major groups and stakeholders can participate?

Your report highlights the need to 'increase the level of employment in younger and older age groups' and 'provide high-quality jobs to young people as soon as they enter the labour market', yet the special youth report highlights that young people struggle to find decent work and work in precarious jobs.

What measures will the government take, including through focused consultations with the affected population, to increase employment among younger and older age groups and to address the issue of the increasing percentage of precarious jobs among young people in the country?

And finally, the special youth report in your VNR details how the national youth council views the strengths and challenges of Slovenia in relation to youth. How does the government view those strengths and challenges and how will it address them in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and future reporting?

\* \* \* \* \*