

## TALKING POINTS (3 minute)

- Dear Director-General, distinguished guests, dear participants,
- It is my great pleasure and honour to be at this very important and inspiring event.
- I am very proud of having the first International Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence under the auspices of UNESCO here in Slovenia.
- This is a reward for an outstanding work of our researchers based on more than 40 years of experience in the field of artificial intelligence.
- In Slovenia, we strive for high quality and ethical use of artificial intelligence, in which citizens will trust.
- Therefore, our National programme for development and use of AI follows a future-oriented digital policy and human-centred approach.
- The programme will support concrete measures to ensure research, innovation, deployment and use of AI systems throughout the innovation life cycle.
- We need artificial intelligence governance where the application and certification of AI systems will be adequately supervised and where AI shall be fair, transparent and ethical.
- Particular important for the future digital society will be appropriate digital competencies, lifelong learning and the need to adapt the education system.
- Also, cooperation with other stakeholders will be crucial.
- At the international level, Slovenia is already actively addressing the issue of AI in the EU, Council of Europe, OECD, United Nations, and many other international organizations.
- During our EU Presidency in the second half of this year, artificial intelligence will be one of our key priorities.
- We will strive that the Union introduces high-quality, transparent and ethical AI that will be focused on people and will work for their good.
- AI is a key leverage [levridž] for enhanced development of all fields in the society and can greatly contribute to better life of our citizens.
- I firmly believe that the International Research Centre will importantly contribute to the future development of artificial intelligence on a global level.
- I wish a lot of success, brilliant ideas and innovative spirit to all who already work at the centre and to all who will cooperate with you in the future.
- Thank you for your attention.