**Andriy Taran, veleposlanik Ukrajine v Republiki Sloveniji**

Dear Secretary General of Karitas Slovenia, dear representatives of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, dear friends, дорогі діти!

Slovenia has already proved to be a true friend of Ukraine, giving us a helping hand from the first days of full-scale russian aggression against Ukraine. Slovenia was among the first 5 countries to deliver humanitarian aid to Bucha. The first truck with food was received from Karitas Slovenia, and so our cooperation with this organization started.

Together, in 2022, we organized the humanitarian center for Ukrainians coming to Slovenia, that provided first help for them, became the center for cultural, informational activities for Ukrainians. Together we have organized many events for Ukrainian children, summer camps, classes of horse riding, tennis, swimming, classes for social adaptation, as well as summer vacations for children in Portoroz and Rakitne.

Together we started the project of rebuilding the center for rehabilitation for children in Zhytomyr region, with the financial support of the MFEA of Slovenia. This year we will together finish this first Slovenian project of recovery and start a new one - building of rehabilitation center in Kharkiv region.

Unfortunately, the war is still going on, and it proves to be not only Ukrainian, but the world war against inhumanity. In this regard, help and support from our true friends is more than welcomed and appreciated. We need your help in satisfying urgent needs in reoccupied territories, in humanitarian demining, in providing equipment for our farmers in order to give them an opportunity to feed the world.

We need your help in rehabilitation of all the victims of this war, as well as in protection the mental health of our people, who are under constant stress and death threat for already one and a half year.

We need your help in reconstruction of the country, our economy.

At the end I would like to emphasize:

No matter what the agressor tries to do, no matter what kind of terror against Ukrainian people they use, they will not be able to win over Ukraine.

All the civilized countries are with us. All people, who believe in common human values are with us. We thank Slovenians for their support. We thank Karitas Slovenia for their excellent job. We thank everyone who fights, works and stands with Ukraine.

Slava Ukraini!