MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA ON COUNTERING FOREIGN STATE INFORMATION MANIPULATION

The U.S. Department of State, on behalf of the Government of the United States of America, and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (together, "the Participants") have reached the following understandings:

I. Purpose

Foreign information manipulation poses a threat to all democratic nations guided by shared values and warrants enhanced international cooperation across an array of activities. The United States and Slovenia are both committed to collaboration aimed at reducing the impact of foreign information manipulation and to building societally and institutionally resilient information ecosystems.

II. Framework for Countering Foreign Information Manipulation

The Participants affirm the following framework for countering foreign information manipulation:

1. Effectively addressing foreign information manipulation depends upon countries going beyond "monitor-and-report" approaches, to include developing and implementing strategies to counter this threat.

2. Marshalling and administering a national-level approach to countering foreign information manipulation benefits from coordinated interagency structures.

3. Effectively countering foreign information manipulation depends upon having the technical means and human capacity needed to maintain awareness of the threat.

4. Civil society, independent media, and academia play essential roles in supporting and informing government-led initiatives to counter foreign information manipulation.

5. Multilateral organizations that are leveraging international cooperation to counter and build resilience against foreign information manipulation are indispensable to alleviating information and capacity gaps across partner nations.

III. Scope

To deepen the Participants' partnership on these challenges, the Participants intend to establish a bilateral consultation on countering foreign information manipulation, to set the direction for future activity. The U.S. Department of State's Global Engagement Center and Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, on behalf of the Government of the United States of America, and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, are expected to jointly lead this

consultation. These consultations include, but are not limited to, strategic communication capacity building the European Digital Diplomacy Exchange (EDDE), analytic exchanges, expert non-governmental speakers and consultants, consultations to establish national strategies, and increased engagement from U.S. government leadership in support of Framework activities.

IV. Implementation, Status, and Discontinuation

This MoU becomes effective upon signature by both Participants. It may be revised by mutual decision of both Participants in writing. Either Participant may discontinue this MoU through notification in writing to the other Participant. This MoU does not give rise to any rights or obligations under international or domestic law. Any cooperation hereunder is subject to the availability of funds for such purposes.

The Participants intend to exchange information under this MoU in accordance with their respective laws, regulations, and policies. The Participants intend that any information exchanged under this MoU would be provided with an expectation of confidentiality and should not be disclosed outside of the receiving Participant's government, save where disclosure is otherwise required by the receiving Participant's domestic law.

Signed at Ljubljana on April 19, 2024 in the English and Slovenian languages.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

James O'Brien, Assistant Secretary

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Sanja Štiglic, State Secretary