

Speech of the
State Secretary, Mrs. Dominika ŠVARC PIPAN

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to sign, on behalf of the Republic of Slovenia, the Agreement between the Republic of Slovenia and the International Criminal Court on the Enforcement of Sentences of the International Criminal Court.

This represents a concrete contribution and expression of Slovenia's persisting support to the International Criminal Court and the rule of law in general.

We believe that support to international criminal justice and respect of rule of law is of great importance, especially when the Court is facing different challenges in its efforts to bring justice to victims of most serious atrocities and efforts to prevent such violations of international law and to protecting basic human rights in the future. This is also a responsibility and obligation of all States. States, within their national jurisdiction, bear the primary responsibility to ensure accountability for serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole.

Today Slovenia joins the group of 10 countries¹ that have already signed such an agreement with ICC. Under the agreement, persons convicted by the ICC may serve their sentences of imprisonment in Slovenia, if so decided by the Court and accepted by Slovenia.

¹ Similar agreements on the enforcement of sentences are currently in force between the ICC and the governments of Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Mali, Norway, Serbia, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Rome Statute provides that sentences of imprisonment imposed by the ICC "shall be served in a State designated by the Court from a list of States which have indicated to the Court their willingness to accept sentenced persons".

Mr President,

This year, 2018, marks also the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute and the activation of the Court's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression, which supplemented definitions of atrocities as originally envisaged under the Rome Statute. Slovenia ratified the amendments to the Rome Statute as well. 20 years is not a long period for a first global criminal court in a complex international reality, where the concept of multilateralism is often being challenged. We would like to encourage the Court to further strengthen its increasingly active role, as well as call on States to provide cooperation and support to the Court.

Thank you.