



S L O V A K I A

STATEMENT

by

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**Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary of the Slovak
Republic
to the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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the International Criminal Court**

General debate

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Mr. President,

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made by Germany on behalf of the European Union. I have the honour to address the Assembly with further observations from our national perspective.

This year has been truly unprecedented and challenging for the whole world; for the Rome Statute system especially. Covid-19 pandemic has massively affected our working methods as we can still witness even today in this room. However, the fight against impunity cannot cease to be urgent as the most heinous crimes have not disappeared with the outbreak of pandemic. Nor can be victims' call for justice cease to be heard. It was therefore crucial that the Court has been able to react swiftly and adopt a set of measures allowing business continuity. Slovakia highly appreciates this commitment from the Court to ensure continued fulfilment of its mandate.

Unfortunately, we have also witnessed the threats against the Court and its officials getting materialized. Such steps are simply unacceptable against a legitimate treaty-based international organization, even less when directed against a judicial institution which is, by definition independent and impartial. Slovakia once again reiterates its firm commitment to defend the Court's independence, uphold principles and values enshrined in the Rome Statute, and preserve its integrity undeterred by any threats and measures against the Court, its officials, staff and their families or those cooperating with the Court.

Mr. President,

Despite the challenges year 2020 has brought, this Assembly provides us with a unique opportunity to strengthen the Rome Statute system. We will proceed to elect six new judges and a new prosecutor together with deciding on way forward with the review process. Slovakia insists that highest qualifications required by the Rome Statute should be the only qualities taken into account at the shortly forthcoming elections. National or individual interests have to be put aside and not compel us to politicization of the process. The Court together with States Parties must also make the implementation of the review based on much appreciated and robust report of independent experts a priority. All recommendations contained in the report, some of which even raise concerns, deserve a proper consideration. The new leadership of the Court will bear a significant responsibility to ensure appropriate working culture and environment.

Mr. President,

We note with sheer satisfaction that the budget proposal for 2021 eventually reflects all the efforts to optimise the functioning of the Court, yet provide allocation of appropriate resources for all the planned activities, which is a material imperative for fulfilment of

the Court's mandate. We encourage the Court to preserve improvements reached in the budgetary process. In this context, we also welcome the results of the work done by the Judicial Remuneration Panel. We believe that together with the recent ILOAT decision, this needless episode has been brought to a just and all-round satisfactory end.

In conclusion, Mr. President, Slovakia wishes to express its unwavering support for the Court. It has been an honour to steer the work of the Assembly through our Vice-President in the previous three years. We remain determined to continue working constructively with all partners for a successful future of the Rome Statue system.

Thank you.