



**S L O V A K I A**

**STATEMENT**

**by**

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**21st session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of  
the International Criminal Court**

**General Debate**

**The Hague, 5 December 2022**

Madam President,

While aligning myself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union, I have the honour to address the Assembly with additional observations in national capacity.

As we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute, I would like to reiterate Slovakia's continuous support for the mission, integrity and independence of the International Criminal Court. I also want to express our sincere appreciation to the Court and its officials as well as the civil society for their tireless efforts to end impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern.

Madam President,

This year's events serve as a stark reminder of how fragile peace among the nations can be and that it should never be taken for granted. A full-scale invasion of one sovereign State into a territory of another sovereign State constitutes a blatant violation of international law. It aims at the very core of the international system based on resolution of disputes by peaceful means.

Now we understand all too palpably the importance of international criminal justice which, admittedly, sometimes is a bit slow, but eventually reaches all of those responsible for the most horrendous crimes of concern to the humankind. Justice is crucial to and firmly embedded in the notion of peace.

Slovakia as a neighbouring country feels particular responsibility for ensuring accountability in the situation east of our borders. We have supported and engaged in multiple efforts aimed at independent investigation of the atrocities in Ukraine. Among other things, Slovakia, along with other 42 States Parties, referred the situation in Ukraine to the Office of the Prosecutor.

Nevertheless, I would like to reassure all colleagues and partners that Slovakia supports sustainable and adequate allocation of resources to all ongoing cases and situations. Moreover, we continue to actively explore modalities of a very practical support for the fulfilment of the Court's mandate.

The ICC has achieved considerable progress in its investigations and prosecutions in situations across different continents. However, the Court cannot live up to the expectations without adequate support from the States Parties. Along with the duty of cooperation pursuant to Chapter IX of the Rome Statute, we all bear a moral obligation to support the Court and its integrity. This allows the Court to conduct independent and impartial investigations and prosecutions.

Justice must be done and justice must be seen to have been done. Let us not forget the thousands of individual victims. In this regard, we appreciate the work done by the Trust Fund for Victims fulfilling both its reparations and assistance mandates. I am pleased to announce that in addition to its regular contribution to the ICC budget, Slovakia will again provide a voluntary contribution to the Fund this year.

The Assembly shall adopt its recommendations to the Judges on the election of the next Registrar. In this regard, let me express my highest appreciation for the work of Mr. Peter Lewis. His leadership, commitment to the mandate of the Court and his excellent managerial skills have been instrumental in making the Court a more resilient organisation.

Finally, we would like to encourage those States that have not yet ratified the Rome Statute or its amendments, to do so. Universal ratification of the Rome Statute and its amendments lies at the heart of the promise of the ICC and international justice more generally.

To conclude, Madam President, Slovakia wishes to recall its unwavering support for the Court. We remain determined to continue working constructively with all partners towards a successful session of the Assembly, and in a broader perspective, towards an effective system of international criminal justice.

I thank you.