



# SLOVENIA

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**Twenty-first Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of  
the International Criminal Court**

**General debate**

**The Hague, 6 December 2022**

Mrs President,  
Distinguished Members of the Court,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to address the Assembly of States Parties on behalf of the Republic of Slovenia in order to express its unwavering support for the International Criminal Court and steadfast commitment to the international rule of law.

Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The International Criminal Court, which is this year celebrating its twentieth anniversary, was created to combat impunity by holding responsible the perpetrators of the gravest crimes. Since its establishment, the ICC has set important milestones in the field of international criminal justice and proved to be a vital tool in the global fight against impunity.

The war in Ukraine is yet another difficult trial that the Court has had to face in recent years. We commend the ICC's response to the current crisis in Ukraine and its continued presence on the ground. Slovenia was among 43 States referring the situation in Ukraine to the Court, which enabled a swift opening of the investigation. We further supported the Court by providing the requested voluntary financial support.

The past year has also been marked by a stark increase in the Court's caseload. To ensure its continued smooth operation, States Parties must ensure adequate and sustainable financing, as well as paying their contributions in full. In this respect, Slovenia believes that the CBF recommendations on the proposed program budget by the ICC are well founded, and adequately address the financial needs of the Court. Moreover, it is important to recognise the complex role of the permanent international criminal court in prosecuting high-ranking individuals, which calls for reasonable expectations regarding the Court's capacities in fulfilling its mandate.

With regard to ensuring the efficiency of the Court's functioning, it is important to highlight the role of the Court's Registrar and stress the importance of electing the most qualified candidate for this position. Allow me to pay tribute to Mr Peter Lewis for his

excellent work and leadership of the Registry in one of the most challenging periods since the Court's establishment.

It is now more crucial than ever that all States assist the Court in prosecuting serious international crimes through cooperation, by offering their political and financial support as well as by ensuring the execution of outstanding warrants. Furthermore, we would like to call on the UN Security Council to enhance its role in the fight against impunity by refraining from using the right of veto in cases of mass atrocities and using its right of referral, as appropriate.

All victims, no matter where they come from, deserve access to impartial justice. Slovenia strongly support the Court's victim-centred approach by regularly contributing to the Trust Fund for Victims, whose role is to make justice meaningful for victims.

On this occasion, Slovenia would like to present the candidacy of Beti Hohler for the post of the ICC judge at the elections next year. We are convinced that her outstanding experience in the field of international criminal law will greatly contribute to the exercise of the ICC's mandate.

Finally, we call on all States to support the Court's important mission and achieve our ultimate goal, that is the universal ratification of the Rome Statute.

To enhance the effective implementation of the principle of complementarity, Slovenia, Argentina, Belgium, the Netherlands, Mongolia and Senegal are actively working towards the adoption of a new international instrument on mutual legal assistance and extradition between states for the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other International Crimes, known as the MLA initiative. Seventy-seven states from all regions have already expressed their support for the Initiative and we call on others to follow suit and join the diplomatic conference for the adoption of the new convention in May 2023 in Ljubljana.

Today, we find ourselves in the middle of an extremely important period for the future functioning of the Court. When the ICC Prosecutor took office, he reminded the international community that the ICC is owned by humanity. It is not of the West or of the East. It is not of the global North or of the South; it belongs to each and every one of us. It is up to the international community as a whole to ensure that there is no place for atrocity crimes.

Thank you.