



S L O V A K I A

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STATEMENT

by

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**Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations**

**10th Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute
of the International Criminal Court**

**14 December 2011
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Madam President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to congratulate you upon your election to the position of President of the Assembly of States Parties to the ICC Rome Statute for the forthcoming 3 years term. I wish you all the best in this important mission and I would like to assure you about strong support of Slovakia as a new bureau Member. In this regard, let me also express sincere gratitude and congratulations to Ambassador Christian Wenaweser for his excellent job as the former ASP President and his achievements mainly during the Kampala Review Conference in 2010. Slovakia considers the first Review conference a meaningful milestone for the International Criminal Court that presented a unique opportunity for States to reflect on achievements of the Court and to reaffirm their commitments to combat impunity for the most serious atrocities. Undoubtedly, Ambassador Wenaweser contributed significantly to the success of the conference.

Madam President,

At the beginning, I would like to align myself with the statement presented earlier by the distinguished representative of Poland on behalf of the European Union.

Slovakia re-affirms its commitment to the mission and mandate of the ICC to end impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. In this regard, it is important to acknowledge the central role of the ICC as a court of last resort in the absence of genuine action by national authorities, as well as the complementarity principle as one of the primary principle on which the Rome Statute is based. Slovakia considers cooperation of States Parties with the ICC as inevitability contributing to the strengthening of the Court's role. We fully supports activities toward universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute at national level and on this occasion, we would like to congratulate the Republic of Vanuatu on becoming the 120th State Party to the Statute. Ongoing raising number of States Parties proves the importance attributed by States to the Court.

Madam President,

This session of the ASP has brought good opportunity for States Parties to strengthen the Court's performance through staffing the ICC with the most highly qualified officials. I congratulate new Prosecutor Ms. Fatou Bensouda as well as all new elected judges upon their successful **elections** this week. My country has been actively involved mainly in the elections of new prosecutor and strongly recommends taking advantage from the lessons learned regarding the Committee for the position of the ICC prosecutor. They can be easily utilized in the future not only with regard to the elections of the prosecutor, however with creation of the Advisory Committee on Nominations of judges in accordance to Article 36 (4) of the ICC Rome Statute, as well.

With regard to **cooperation**, as I have mentioned already, Slovakia considers cooperation important component of the functioning of the ICC. Alongside the efforts of the ASP to facilitate enhanced cooperation, we also encourage the Court to continue its efforts to foster cooperation with States, international and regional organizations and civil society. In accordance to **non-cooperation**, Slovakia supports the procedures provided for in the Bureau report on potential Assembly procedures relating to non-cooperation, encourages to prevent such situations and in a case of non-cooperation to use both, informal and formal measures to address the issue, as appropriate. Further, concerning the **complementarity**, we are of the view that it is essential that the ASP maintain and reinforce its efforts on complementarity and together with the Court focuses its activities on increasing interest in complementarity among broader international community including development actors. We welcome the *Complementarity Extranet* created under the mandate of the ASP Secretariat in order to identify the main actors and their activities, and facilitate contacts between donor States, organizations, civil society and recipient States, with a view to advance the goal of strengthening national capacity. We pay tribute to all actors active in this area.

Madam President,

In conclusion, let me one more time express strong Slovakia's commitment to international criminal justice and the work and role of the International Criminal Court and our full support to you as well as all other newly elected officials of the Court.

I thank you.