



SLOVAKIA

S T A T E M E N T

by

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Madam President,

The delegation of Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of Spain on behalf the European Union and its Member States. I wish to make a few additional remarks in my national capacity.

I shall begin by expressing our gratitude and highest appreciation to the outgoing President of the Court, Judge Piotr Hofmański, as well as President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for their dedicated and experienced leadership over the last three years. My delegation also commend them for their commitment to the Review Process and improving the functioning of the Court and the Rome Statute system in general. We also express our deep gratitude for a professional and committed service of the outgoing Director of the Secretariat, Mr. Renan Villacis, to this Assembly and all of us, States Parties. Last but not least, allow me to congratulate Mr. Osvaldo Zavala Giler for his election as the new Registrar of the Court earlier this year, as well as new President, Vice-Presidents of this Assembly and 6 new judges for their election earlier this week and wish them all a successful term in office.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute, the Court's founding treaty. The experience of the past 25 years, and most importantly the developments over the last year fully demonstrate the importance of international criminal justice and the Court's indispensable role in its architecture. We are extremely concerned about this year's unprecedented attacks and threats against the Court, its officials and staff members, and others who cooperate with it, including civil society and human rights defenders, for the mere reason of carrying out their mandate and pursuing the fundamental interests of justice. Let us be clear here, such attacks and threats are simply unacceptable, and Slovakia stands firmly behind the Court. These threats and attacks must in no way affect the Court's activities, its integrity, independence, and impartiality - the core pillars this international judicial body is built upon. We are prepared to support any meaningful measures to enhance the standards of security of the Court, including for outgoing judges.

Madam President,

Slovakia welcomes the considerable progress achieved this year in investigations and prosecutions in situations across all continents. However, the Court cannot fully deliver on its mandate without the adequate support from States Parties, in particular when it comes to effective cooperation, political support and promotion of universality. In view of this, I would firstly like to acknowledge that the implementation of arrest warrants remains one of the fundamental challenges before the Court. In this regard Slovakia calls on States Parties to the Rome Statute and, where applicable, other relevant stakeholders to provide necessary cooperation and assistance for their execution. Second, considering the challenging conditions as well as the amount of external pressure under which the Court operates, political support and readiness to stand behind it at all fora, including here at the United Nations, is crucial. Third, recalling that 25 years ago, the establishment of this Court represented the promise of universal justice, we need to continue encouraging States that are not yet parties to the Rome Statute, its amendments or the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities, to ratify and implement them. It is in this context that we welcome Armenia's ratification of the Rome Statute and call on others to follow suit swiftly.

Finally, Slovakia welcomes the outcomes of the review process and remains committed to further strengthening the Rome Statute system. We have actively contributed to the reform of legal aid and of the procedure for nomination and election of judges, and we advocate for the review of the Kampala amendment to ensure unified jurisdictional regime of all four ICC crimes.

To conclude, Madam President, I wish to recall Slovakia's unwavering support for the Court and assure you of our readiness to work constructively with you and all participants throughout this Assembly session.

I thank you.