



SLOVENIA

STATEMENT

BY

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Madam President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to be able to address the Assembly on behalf of the Republic of Slovenia.

Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union and would like to further contribute to the general debate in its national capacity.

This year we took stock of the achievements and challenges the ICC has faced so far, and we can see once again with a heavy heart that the Court is needed more than ever and that it even has to cope with serious attempts to obstruct its work. Every judicial institution should be able to operate independently and impartially, investigating and establishing accountability in accordance with laws and regulations. Slovenia would like to reiterate its support for the ICC and its mission to the benefit of the entire international community, and deplores any interference in the work of the Court, whether in the form of cyberattacks, political pressure or otherwise.

When we think of the values enshrined in the Rome Statute, we should not forget that every atrocity is unacceptable and that suffering of every victim is inadmissible. This must guide the work of the Court, as well as the support of the States to ensure that all situations are treated equally, including the situation of Palestine, Ukraine or other situations.

Slovenia welcomes the changes and progress that have been introduced in various areas, building on the recommendations of the Independent Expert Review. Engagement and inclusive dialogue among different stakeholders makes the international criminal justice ecosystem, with the ICC at its core, more efficient, resilient and better overall. Slovenia also acknowledges the tireless efforts of civil society in this regard.

Active engagement in full and prompt cooperation with the Court, as well as among the States Parties and with other States and international organisations, is crucial to safeguarding the foundations of international peace and security. Slovenia is pleased that the adoption of the Ljubljana-The Hague Convention on 26 May this year filled an important legal gap. This landmark treaty will strengthen international legal cooperation

in the investigation and prosecution of international crimes. Furthermore, the Convention will strengthen national capacities, which is all the more important as States have the primary responsibility to prosecute perpetrators of crimes.

Madam President,

One of the most important features of the Rome Statute is that it gives victims the opportunity to be heard and to seek redress. There are too many victims and they all deserve to be allowed to heal their wounds. Slovenia is committed to recognising their rights and providing them with assistance. It has supported the Trust Fund for Victims in the past, it also made a contribution this year and will continue to do so in the future.

In order for the Court to fulfill its mandate and to be active in all the situations it is dealing with, it is in need of sustainable and predictable funding. A lack of sufficient resources should be avoided and should not lead to decisions to limit its activities or reduce the objectives and standards set. This is a prerequisite for meeting the expectations of States Parties in pursuit of justice.

Allow me to express my sincere gratitude for the dedication and professionalism of the President of the Assembly, Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, the President of the Court, Piotr Hofmański, and the Director of the Secretariat, Renan Villacis, throughout their term of office. Their work has left its mark and it has been a privilege to cooperate with them.

As we say goodbye to some individuals, it is time to look forward and welcome a new State Party, Armenia, into our midst. We hope that this decision will encourage other States to ratify or accede to the Rome Statute and bring it closer to universality. At the same time, we invite those States Parties that have not yet done so to consider doing so with the adopted amendments to the Rome Statute.

I would like to extend congratulations to the newly elected President of the Assembly Päivi Kaukoranta, two newly elected Vice-Presidents of the Assembly and Members of the Bureau. As one of the new Members of Bureau, Slovenia will continue to contribute to the benefit of the ICC and the Rome Statute system as a whole.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the newly elected judges of the Court (*including Ms Beti Hohler, nominated by Slovenia*). The ability of the Court to successfully exercise its jurisdiction depends on the professional competence, dedication and skills of its

elected officials, in particular the judges. I wish them all every success in the performance of their duties.

Thank you.