



**SLOVAKIA**

**S T A T E M E N T**

by

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Embassy of the Slovak Republic  
in The Hague

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the International Criminal Court*

General Debate

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Madam President,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Hungary 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 Ms. Elena Sopková who has concluded this autumn her membership of the Committee on Budget and Finance. Having been Member of the CBF for over 20 years, as well as by serving two terms on the Audit Committee, Ms. Sopková has significantly contributed to the sound financial management and budgetary oversight of the Court, the importance of which cannot be overstated. We also express our gratitude for the professional and committed service of the former Director of the Secretariat, Mr. Renan Villacis, to all States Parties and the Assembly as a whole.

Slovakia welcomes the deposit by Ukraine of its instrument of ratification of the Rome Statute which will bring the total number of States Parties to 125. Together with the accession of Armenia earlier this year, the Eastern European Group has made a significant contribution to the universality of the Rome Statute. We encourage other countries to follow these examples.

Madam President,

Slovakia reiterates its long-standing firm position, whereby accountability for crimes under international law is a crucial element of the rules-based international order. For this goal to be achieved, a strong International Criminal Court is indispensable. The ICC has served as a stronghold of the fight against impunity since its creation, and its fundamental mission in the field of international criminal justice as a permanent accountability mechanism must remain undisputed. The court is, however, facing an increasing number of significant challenges. Slovakia is, especially, gravely concerned by attacks and threats against the Court, all made for the sole reason of carrying out its mandate and pursuing the fundamental interests of justice. We state clearly that such attacks and threats are simply unacceptable, and Slovakia stands firmly behind the Court. We are prepared to support any meaningful measures to enable the Court to carry

out its mandate in a safe and secure environment. At the same time, besides the crucial role of States Parties in supporting the Court, the Court itself must take all necessary measures to make itself more resilient and immune against any outside attacks or attempts at interference, including by integrating the highest standards of accountability and integrity into all actions undertaken by the institution and its top officials.

Madam President,

Besides political support, the Court is vitally reliant on States Parties in the field of cooperation. Slovakia notes with concern the high number of unexecuted arrest warrants and hopes that the changes at the Court – some implemented, some envisaged – aimed at strengthening cooperation, tracking of suspects and other related activities, will yield tangible results in the foreseeable future.

With regard to this issue, Slovakia notes with concern the failure of a State Party to cooperate with Court, as confirmed by Pre-Trial Chamber II in its decision issued on 24 October 2024. Execution of arrest warrants is indispensable for trials to take place and, thus, for justice to be delivered. All requests across all situations must be treated evenly. Any other approach would cast huge doubts over the commitments that States Parties have voluntarily taken up on themselves.

Finally, Slovakia welcomes the decision to be taken on the modalities of the review of the Kampala amendment on the crime of aggression and expresses its readiness to engage constructively with all delegations with a view to achieving a 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.