



# SLOVENIA

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. Ms Melita Gabrič**

**Deputy Minister of Foreign and European Affairs**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute**

**2 December 2024, The Hague**

Madam President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

Let me begin by reiterating our unwavering support for the ICC as an international judicial institution tasked with safeguarding the core values of the international community. To fully realize their potential, judicial institutions must remain free from any interference in their independent and impartial work. Therefore, it is our firm belief that the ICC must uphold its mandate by applying the law equally in all cases, regardless of political considerations, and establish beyond a reasonable doubt the accountability of every perpetrator, without selectivity.

The ICC is a cornerstone of international peace and security, relying on the active commitment and full cooperation of States Parties, who are obligated to provide such cooperation. As demonstrated repeatedly, the majority of the international community shares common values in the fight against impunity. Experience has shown that respectful, inclusive, and constructive dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders are not only possible but also in the mutual interest of all.

I want to emphasize the need to protect the ICC from cyberattacks, interference, attempts to discredit it, and threats or sanctions of any kind. In particular, the protection of its elected officials, staff, and collaborators is essential. Slovenia also acknowledges the valuable and tireless contributions of civil society in the fight against impunity.

Madam President,

As victims are at the heart of the Rome Statute, Slovenia reaffirms its commitment to recognizing their rights and providing them with assistance. We call on States Parties and other stakeholders to contribute to the Trust Fund for Victims.

To meet the expectations of States Parties in the pursuit of justice, the Court must have sufficient resources to carry out its activities effectively in a balanced way and in all situations. Sustainable and predictable funding is crucial for this purpose.

We commend Armenia for recently becoming a State Party and we look forward to Ukraine's accession.

Slovenia calls on all States Parties to ratify the amendments to the Rome statute, which make the ICC more resilient and its activities more comprehensive. Ahead of next year's review of the Kampala amendments on aggression, Slovenia calls on States Parties to engage in the review process and consider harmonizing the ICC's jurisdiction over all four core crimes, strengthening the protection of States against acts of aggression.

To enhance international legal cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of international crimes, and to strengthen national capacities, Slovenia encourages all States to consider signing and ratifying the Ljubljana-The Hague Convention.

Finally, Slovenia extends its sincere gratitude to Mr. Renan Villacis for his many years of dedicated service as Director of the Secretariat and his devoted team in supporting States Parties and ICC organs, and contributing to the Court's successes.

In conclusion, Slovenia reiterates its strong support for the ICC and its role as an independent judicial institution.

Thank you.