



SLOVAKIA

S T A T E M E N T

by

H.E. Mr. Juraj PODHORSKÝ

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Slovak Republic
to the Kingdom of the Netherlands

*24th session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of
the International Criminal Court*

General Debate

The Hague, 2 December 2025

- check against delivery -

Madam President,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

I wish to make a few additional remarks in my national capacity.

Slovakia reiterates its long-standing firm position, whereby accountability for crimes under international law is a crucial element of the rules-based international order. The International Criminal Court 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 remains undisputed.

The Court is, however, facing an increasing number of significant challenges. Slovakia is gravely concerned by sanctions against elected officials, the threat of further sanctions, as well as other attacks against the Court, all made for the sole reason of independently carrying out its mandate and pursuing the fundamental interests of justice. In this respect, we wish to applaud the tireless work of the Registrar of the Court, Mr. Osvaldo Zavala Giler in response to existing sanctions and threats, as well as to make the institution more resilient.

Slovakia stands firmly behind the Court in face of these challenges and reiterates its readiness to support any meaningful measures to enable the Court to carry out its mandate in a safe and secure environment. The ASP as the governance oversight body plays a crucial role in strengthening the Rome Statute system.

In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the *Terms of reference for the ad hoc panel*, as well as of the related changes to the legal framework. In our view, safe and conducive work environment for staff members is indispensable for the good and effective functioning of the institution. The highest standards of accountability and integrity must be integrated into the day-to day work of the institution.

Slovakia further welcomes the draft *Resolution on the procedure and criteria for the waiver of the loss of voting rights*. We firmly believe that ensuring the predictable and

stable financing of the ICC is a key responsibility of States Parties. This resolution is an important tool for translating that responsibility into real action.

Madam President,

The Court is vitally reliant on States Parties in the field of cooperation. Slovakia, therefore, notes with concern the high number of outstanding arrest warrants, as well as the failure by States Parties to execute arrest warrants against persons on their territory.

Madam President,

The Rome Statute is founded on the crucial recognition that the most serious crimes under international law threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world and, therefore, they must not go unpunished. It reflects the necessity to uphold international law, *inter alia*, by pursuing accountability for the perpetrators and justice for the victims. These efforts can be best achieved by the widest possible participation of States in the Rome Statute system. In this regard, we welcome Ukraine as the most recent State Party as of 1 January 2025. At the same time, we regret the decision of Hungary to withdraw from the Rome Statute and from APIC, as well as the announcements by Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger of their intent to withdraw from the Rome Statute. We hope – as the President of the ASP stressed in her statement of 5 June 2025 – that these developments represent only a brief pause to the commitment of these countries to international justice.

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.