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STATEMENT

BY

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of the Republic of Slovenia**

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General Debate

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Madam President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and wishes to convey the following remarks in its national capacity.

Madam President,

The ICC is a legacy of the Nuremberg Tribunal, whose historic work began eighty years ago. At the time, the Nuremberg Tribunal was novel and experimental. Nevertheless, it applied international law to establish accountability without ambiguity and indecision. It could afford no compromise in addressing the consequences of the most serious wrongdoings.

The activities of the ICC are not driven by the momentum of victory or fresh enthusiasm. On the contrary, the Court builds upon the historic lessons learned and on the development of international law in order to secure global peace and security. It serves the interest of the entire international community, not only States Parties. For this reason, it needs and deserves our unequivocal support and protection, without hesitation or second thoughts.

This institution and the individuals working for it, our citizens, demonstrate daily their dedication to the mandate entrusted to them – independently, impartially, professionally and with integrity. Any threats and attempts to undermine the independent work of a judicial institution, including those who cooperate with it, constitute an attack on the rule of law, on human rights and on the stability of the international order based on international law.

The ICC is the world's criminal court, supported by a majority of the international community. It investigates and prosecutes the most senior individuals responsible for the most serious and egregious crimes. Justice matters and we need it – the victims, who are at the heart of the ICC, and all of us who need assurance that such crimes will not go unpunished or recur.

Madam President,

Support comes in many forms. The Court relies on the cooperation of States. We must increase the prospects for executing arrest warrants. The ICC needs sufficient financial resources for its activities across all situations, including those referred by the Security Council. This implies timely and full payment of contributions.

Faced with new challenges, including technological developments, the Court must be adequately equipped to address them effectively. We must strive for a resilient and well-equipped Court that will not be easily shaken by external pressures and risks.

The Rome Statute gives victims the opportunity to be heard. Court-awarded reparations and assistance programmes managed by the Trust Fund for Victims depend on voluntary contributions. This is a matter of solidarity and willingness to help.

Advocating for the universality of the Rome Statute strengthens the foundations for peaceful coexistence. The more ICC is respected, the greater the chance of sustainable peace and security, leading to fewer atrocities and less need for judicial action.

Joining cross-regional statements in support of the ICC demonstrates engagement and commitment. Above all, the unity of States Parties is a cornerstone of the Court's resilience.

Madam President,

The establishment of the Nuremberg Tribunal was an example of partnership. Its founders were bound by their respect for the same fundamental values and by their determination to ensure justice. They were prepared to distinguish between what was permissible and what was prohibited, and they acted in good faith. Their constructive search for solutions, based on mutual understanding, respect and cooperation, was key to achieving their common goal.

To succeed in the long term, there can be no room for double standards, transactional policy or selective application of international law. Compliance with judicial decisions strengthens the effectiveness of the international legal system.

Slovenia reiterates its unwavering support for the ICC as the keystone of modern international criminal law, a principled and independent judicial institution and a guarantee of justice for all.

Thank you.