



SLOVENIA

STATEMENT

BY

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**Commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome
Statute of the International Criminal Court**

**Strategic vision for the next decade:
How to ensure consistent and sustainable support for the ICC**

New York, 17 July 2023

Madam President,
Distinguished Members of the Court,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to address you on this occasion, a quarter of a century after the intensive, difficult, and yet rewarding negotiations in Rome. In these 25 years, the ICC has become a permanent central institution to fight impunity for international crimes all around the globe. I would briefly like to outline some of key elements where our work should be focused in the upcoming years in order to make the international criminal law ecosystem, with the ICC in its midst, even better, more resilient and efficient.

First, we should strive to reserve the principle of complementarity of the ICC only for the most serious cases. The States who sincerely want to safeguard the foundations of international peace and security must actively engage in full and prompt cooperation with the Court as well as among themselves. On 26 May this year an important legal gap has been filled with the adoption of Ljubljana-The Hague MLA Convention. It is a landmark treaty, which will strengthen international legal cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of atrocity crimes and we invite all States to sign the MLA Convention in February next year in The Hague.

Second, we should put our efforts in strengthening the Court itself. The independence and impartiality of the Court should be protected. Modern technology should be embraced. Sustainable financing should mirror the existing needs. The Independent Expert Review recommendations are an excellent basis for achieving this goal. We welcome the introduced changes and progress in various areas as well as efforts toward an improvement of the working culture of the Court.

Moreover, what seemed impossible in Rome at the time became a reality at the Review Conference in Kampala. Today we also mark the fifth anniversary of the activation of the Kampala amendments, which extended the jurisdiction of the ICC to include the crime of aggression. We encourage all States that have not yet ratified amendments to consider their steadfast ratification.

And, as we are at the heart of the United Nations, we should focus more on the overall picture, including the prevention of conflicts, the protection and preservation of peace and security and a closer cooperation between the United Nations, including the Security Council, and the ICC.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It seems that a great deal remains to be done. I wish that in ten years' time we will not have to deliberate on sustainable support for the ICC, but that its decisions and those of other courts and tribunals will simply be respected. I invite all States who have not yet done so, to accede to or ratify the Rome Statute, and thus bring it a step closer to universality.

Together we can do better, and more.

Thank you.