



SLOVENIA

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STATEMENT

BY

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under Agenda item 85

The rule of law at the national and international levels

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, please allow me, to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau upon your election. We are confident that with your able leadership we will have a productive and successful Sixth Committee session.

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU. In addition we would like to make a few additional comments in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the recent report of the Secretary General on Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities and are looking forward to the addendum to the report. We would also like to commend the Rule of Law Unit for its indispensable work in enhancing coordination and coherence within the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

As we did last year in this committee we would again like to highlight the ascertainment that special attention should be devoted to the prevention of mass atrocities and the fight against impunity. It is our shared responsibility to implement all three pillars of the R2P and protect human beings from mass atrocity crimes. To this end, we have to strengthen our prevention capacities and better use the methods incorporated in Chapter VI of the UN Charter. Peaceful settlement of disputes remains key to avoiding situations that can lead to commitment of mass atrocity crimes. In order to continue progress on mediation Slovenia will host the third seminar in the framework of the Mediation in the Mediterranean in spring next year.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the role of the International criminal courts and tribunals, in particular the ICC, is essential in the establishment of the rule of law. It is true that prosecution of the international crimes should remain the primary responsibility of states according to the principle of complementarity; however, the role of the ICC is of particular importance in cases where states are unable or unwilling to prosecute perpetrators of the most heinous crimes. In this context, we would like to emphasize the need for strengthening the international legal framework for judicial assistance, including extradition, between States in order to support effective prosecution of international crimes at a national level. Having had recognized this legal gap, Slovenia, Netherlands and Belgium work together on the initiative to consider the possibility of adopting a new international instrument on mutual legal assistance and extradition for effective investigation and prosecution of the most serious crimes of international concern by domestic jurisdictions. We intend to continue with activities in this respect in the framework of UNTOC and invite other States to join the initiative.

Mr. Chairman,

As a staunch supporter of the international criminal justice and the ICC itself Slovenia continues to play an active role in promoting their cause. Therefore in the beginning of September 2013 a panel discussion on the International Criminal Justice as a Precondition for a Prosperous

Economic Future, with special emphasis on the role of the ICC, was held in Slovenia in the framework of the annual International conference Bled Strategic Forum.

At that panel, the ICC prosecutor Madame Bensouda stressed that the ICC should be also seen as investment in the future of women and humanity as a whole. We fully agree with her and believe furthermore that the court should also be seen as an investment in establishing and upholding the rule of law. We have to strive towards universality of the Rome statute and call upon states to ratify or accede to it.

Slovenia is doing its share in establishing the era of accountability. It is my pleasure to inform you that Slovenia already implemented the Kampala amendments on war crimes and aggression in its national legislation in 2012, ratified the amendments on 15 July 2013 and deposited the Instrument of ratification thereof on 25 September 2013.

With this Slovenia fulfilled its pledge made at the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law held on 24 September 2012.

We call upon all states to follow our example and enable universality of the Rome statute and activation of the Kampala amendments. Finally, allow me to inform you that Slovenia, together with Liechtenstein, intends to hold a regional seminar on the ratification and implementation of the Kampala amendments in spring 2014.