

**Statement of the Republic of Slovenia on the Agenda item 82: The rule of law
at the national and international levels in the Sixth Committee**

10 October 2014

Mr. Chairman,

I would like 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 representative of the EU. In addition we would like to make a few additional comments in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome both reports of the Secretary General on Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities. 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,

Slovenia continues to place great importance to sustainable development. As there are no peaceful societies without accessible and accountable justice, there cannot be any significant sustainable development without the rule of law fight against corruption and implementation of human rights.

As we did last year in this committee, Slovenia would 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. We hope that during 69th session concrete steps in implementation of the Rights up front initiative will be taken. Also, there is much room for improvement of use of the ICC by the Security Council when faced by the atrocity crimes or the need to prevent their occurrence. It is also for this reason that Slovenia supports the initiative aimed against the use of veto by the P5 in cases of atrocity crimes.

We welcome the intention of the Argentinian Presidency to the SC in October to dedicate the open debate on working methods of the SC also to the follow-up mechanism of the SC referrals to the ICC.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the role of international criminal courts and tribunals, in particular the ICC, is essential in the establishment of the rule of law. However, the prosecution of the international crimes remains the primary responsibility of states according to the principle of complementarity; this is why the ICC steps in only when states are unable or unwilling genuinely to prosecute perpetrators of the most heinous crimes. However, the successful implementation of the principle of complementarity requires, *inter alia*, effective inter-state cooperation, where the effectiveness is hindered due to the unsatisfactory international legal framework. Having had recognized this legal gap, Slovenia, together with the Netherlands, Belgium, Argentina and Senegal works on the initiative for the adoption of a new multilateral treaty for Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition for Domestic Prosecution of the Most Serious International Crimes.. The initiative has already gathered support from states of all geographical regions. We wish to take this opportunity to invite states to consider joining this important 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. In May 2014 Slovenia, as a contact point for Eastern European Group for the ratification of the Kampala amendments, organized a regional seminar on the ratification and implementation of the Kampala amendments together with Lichtenstein.

Special emphasis should be also given to the universality of the Rome Statute itself. The Court should be seen as an investment in establishing and upholding the rule of law. We have to strive towards universality of the Rome statute, including the Kampala amendments, and call upon states to ratify or accede to it.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.