



SLOVENIA

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STATEMENT

BY

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Agenda item 85

The rule of law at the national and international levels

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Mr Chairman,

at the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the 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.

Slovenia welcomes the Secretary-General's report on *strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities*, reaffirming the wide-ranging nature of the rule of law.

Promoting the rule of law remains a priority for Slovenia. We recognise the crucial role of the rule of law in international peace and security, sustainable development, and respect for human rights and the fight against impunity. International order based on the rule of law and international law is essential to peaceful cooperation and the coexistence of nations, with multilateral treaties playing a crucial role.

Given the far-reaching relevance of multilateral treaties, Slovenia welcomes the focus of this year's discussion on *the role of multilateral treaty processes in promoting and advancing the rule of law*. It is precisely through multilateral treaty processes that we can best achieve binding solutions for the evolving challenges facing the international community. By building compromises and consensus, we create widely accepted obligations and standards that not only lead to predictability, but also have a positive impact on the rule of law at the national level.

Although the actors involved in multilateral treaty processes have multiplied through time, contributions by the General Assembly and the International Law Commission to the codification and progressive development of international law remain at the core. My delegation greatly appreciates the work of the UN Office of Legal Affairs and the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, supported by the Rule of Law Unit, which is indispensable in enhancing the results of our efforts in this regard.

The role of multilateral bodies in promoting and advancing the rule of law is intrinsically linked to the role and contributions of States. Multilateral treaty processes are essential from the perspective of smaller States, as they enhance equal opportunities in promoting and advancing the rule of law and mitigate the effects of disparities of power. This becomes even more relevant in the context of the multiplicity of multilateral treaties. Slovenia, for example, is a party to 750 multilateral agreements. It is, therefore, precisely through these processes that smaller States can make a notable contribution to creating a rule-governed international order.

Mr Chairman,

Slovenia devotes particular attention to the prevention of mass atrocities and the fight against impunity, in which the primary responsibility of States to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of mass atrocities rests with States themselves. However, due to their very nature, the effective prosecution of atrocity crimes depends on the effectiveness of inter-state cooperation and judicial assistance. Today, this is often hindered by legal obstacles. Having recognised this deficiency, Slovenia, together with Argentina, Belgium and the Netherlands,

is leading the MLA initiative, i.e. the *Initiative for the adoption of a new multilateral treaty on mutual legal assistance and extradition with respect to the domestic investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes*. We are pleased to mention that, so far, the initiative has received the support of almost 50 countries from all regions, including some that are not members of the ICC. On this occasion, Slovenia urges all States that have not yet done so to join this important initiative.

One of the most notable multilateral treaty processes in modern times has led to the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Slovenia hereby reaffirms its strong support for the ICC and acclaims its contribution to accountability. We remain committed to promoting the universality of the Rome Statute and the Kampala amendments. It is only through universal outreach that the ICC can truly realise its full potential.

With this in mind, Slovenia organised two international conferences this year which put international criminal justice high on the agenda. In April, the *Rights for Peace: Challenges and Opportunities* conference focused on the promotion of the R2P, the UN Secretary-General's *Rights Up Front* initiative, and the ICC. This was followed in September by the annual international Bled Strategic Forum. The Forum also included panels dedicated to strengthening the fight against impunity and ending sexual violence in conflict.

Slovenia calls on all States to join the ICC and ratify the Kampala amendments. It is a moral imperative to combat impunity, which entails full and prompt cooperation with the ICC.

With multilateral treaties at the forefront, Slovenia welcomes the progress achieved this year with respect to States' participation in multilateral treaties, including in the field of human rights, the fight against terrorism, anti-corruption, the fight against trafficking and transnational organised crime, and the law of the sea. It is important to continue efforts aimed at promoting participation in international treaties, while placing greater emphasis on the appropriate use of reservations.

Slovenia would like to take this opportunity to call on States to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of treaties, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols, as well as of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Mr Chairman,

in conclusion, it is essential to keep the rule of law on the agenda of both the General Assembly and the Sixth Committee. Given the cross-cutting nature of the topic, Slovenia welcomes the proposal by the Secretary-General to identify the potential future focus of our discussions. Such an option could include the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development with respect to the rule of law (goal 16.3). Another area for consideration could be human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants, with a special focus on strengthening national systems and synergies.

Thank you.