



**SLOVENIA**

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**Ms Petra Langerholc, Minister Plenipotentiary and Legal Adviser at the Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations on**

**Agenda item 84: The Rule of Law at the national and international levels**

**77th Session of the General Assembly  
Sixth Committee**

**New York, October 2022**

Mr Chairperson,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and, given the importance of the subject matter, would like to make some additional comments.

At the outset, Slovenia would like to thank the Secretary-General for this year's report and welcome the decision to choose a sub-topic for the 77th Session, focusing on the impacts of the global coronavirus pandemic on the rule of law at the national and international levels.

As we have seen in recent events around the world, respect for international law and multilateralism, even more strongly than in the past, are key to maintaining peace, security and stability.

Slovenia believes in unwavering support for international law and the rule of law as a building block of peace and security.

As we have witnessed in the last two years not only conflicts and injustice but also the global coronavirus pandemic have dramatically impaired the lives of millions of people around the world and in several cases dealt a severe blow to democratic institutions, human rights, and the rule of law.

The majority of governments around the globe declared a state of emergency over the coronavirus outbreak, during which a number of fundamental and human rights were restricted. The introduction of states of emergency was necessary given the gravity of the crisis; nevertheless, prescribed rules for their implementation should have been followed.

An important objective of the enacted measures and restrictions was to ensure the right to health and life. However, in several cases, restrictions on fundamental rights have not always been accurate, acceptable or proportionate. It is important to note that the implementation of restrictions should always be carried out with respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights.

We call upon the international community never to use any crisis such as the pandemic as an excuse to misuse a declared state of emergency. Fundamental freedoms of movement, assembly, and expression were subject to limitations, and in many instances, used as means of repressing the political opposition, civil society, and the media. Moreover, the rights to health, education, and decent work were in most cases subject to severe impediments.

In addition, restrictive measures affected the work of courts at the national as well as international level, having an impact on people's access to justice, which is important for ensuring the right to an effective remedy and a fair trial.

People who were already in a vulnerable position have ended up in an ever-harder situation as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and related measures.

Mister Chairperson,

Strengthening the rule of law by protecting the rights of the individual is at the forefront of Slovenia's foreign policy.

Moreover, support for the rule of law as a building block of peace and security represents an important priority of Slovenia's candidature for membership in the UN Security Council for the 2024–2025 term.

Slovenia will promote the rule of law as the foundation of a fair and just society and a guarantee of responsible government, which in turn is inextricably linked to peace, security and sustainable development.

The coronavirus pandemic has attested to the importance of strengthening the rule of law and human rights in order to avoid their erosion in times of crisis. Therefore, further discussion is of the essence in order to ensure an appropriate law-centred response to similar crises in the future.

To conclude with the words of Friedrich August von Hayek: "The rule of law will be effective only in so far as it forms part of the moral tradition, a common ideal shared and unquestioningly accepted by the whole community."

Thank you.