



**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 85: Scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction**

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

**New York, October 2022**

Mr./Madam Chair,

Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to contribute further to this debate in its national capacity.

Allow me to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction and all Member States and observers for their contributions.

To begin, we welcome the decision of the Assembly to establish a working group of the Sixth Committee to continue to undertake a thorough discussion on this agenda item and consider the question of the role and purpose of universal jurisdiction.

Given the continued divergence of views among States over the appropriate scope and application of universal jurisdiction and a lack of meaningful progress regarding this topic, the work of the working group of the Sixth Committee could significantly enhance the legal clarity regarding the core issues, thereby greatly contributing to enhancing the rule of law in international affairs.

Mr./Madam Chair,

The principle of universal jurisdiction serves as an effective mechanism to ensure accountability and provide justice for victims by complementing the jurisdiction of competent national courts, which have primary jurisdiction over crimes occurring within their respective territories.

Following the aggression on Ukraine, the principle of universal jurisdiction has been invoked by an unprecedented number of States in the fight against impunity for the most heinous international crimes. In this regard, Slovenia calls on all States to assist courts at the national as well as international level in prosecuting serious international crimes through cooperation.

In order to ensure an effective application of universal jurisdiction, gaps in national laws should be filled by establishing effective multilateral mechanisms for judicial cooperation and mutual assistance in criminal matters.

Mr./Madam Chair,

The international community must step together as one to promote the cause of justice by acting against individuals who may not otherwise be held accountable, particularly in case of crimes that shock the conscience of all humanity.

In this respect, we would like to recall the “MLA” initiative launched by Argentina, Belgium, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Senegal and Slovenia, for the adoption of a new convention on mutual legal assistance and cooperation between States with the aim of improving the effectiveness of the investigation and prosecution of core crimes at the national level.

The MLA diplomatic conference will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in May 2023. The adoption of the MLA convention would represent a major step towards enhancing state cooperation in the fight to end impunity for core crimes by putting into practice the principle of complementarity.

I would like to invite all states to participate at this conference and join the global effort to ensure accountability for the most serious crimes, since there cannot be impunity in the name of peace and justice.

I thank you, Mr./Madam Chair.