



SLOVENIA

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STATEMENT

BY

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The rule of law at the national and international levels

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Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by welcoming the Secretary-General's reports "Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities" under this agenda item. The report offers a valuable insight into mechanisms and practices promoting effective implementation of international law and the rule of law activities both in the national and international contexts.

Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. In addition, it would like to contribute to this important debate in its national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Respect for the rule of law is a prerequisite for peace, stability and development, and therefore needs to be pursued at both national and international levels. Multilateral treaties play a key role in setting down common rules for all nations and in strengthening the rules-based international system.

Never before has it been more important to ensure the strengthening of a rules-based international system and to safeguard and promote the full enjoyment of human rights for all. The current international challenges require a stronger and more concrete commitment to the protection of human rights.

Effective implementation of the rule of law is only possible with a strong commitment of the Member States, accompanied by a targeted and operational support of the United Nations. In addition to the core rule of law principles and areas, there are new serious challenges that require our prompt and comprehensive response.

The fulfilment of international legal obligations, especially the implementation of decisions and awards of international courts and tribunals, is one of the basic rule of law principles.

Slovenia consistently advocates the stance that any failure to respect the decisions of international courts and tribunals constitutes a failure to respect the rule of law. Slovenia has been implementing even the most challenging judgements delivered by the international courts. We may not have liked them or, in some parts, we may not have agreed with them, but we still adhered to them. This is our very concrete commitment to the rule of law, and we expect our partners to do no less.

To achieve a lasting peace, those responsible for the violations of international law, including the violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, must be held accountable. It needs to be ensured that the perpetrators are brought to justice, including through international criminal justice mechanisms. Efforts must be strengthened to fight impunity and ensure the accountability for the most serious crimes, as these are the fundamental pillars of the rule of law.

As a long-standing supporter of the International Criminal Court, Slovenia continues to support it in the exercise of its important mandate.

Slovenia would like to stress the importance of ensuring that the International Criminal Court can continue to act impartially and independently, thereby contributing to peace and justice in the interest of everyone, especially the victims of the most serious crimes.

We encourage all states that have not yet done so to consider joining the Court.

Aware of the limitations arising from the International Criminal Court's lack of universality, Slovenia also supports other mechanisms aiming to assist in the fight against impunity.

Slovenia's commitment to combating impunity is also reflected in its concerted efforts within the MLA Initiative, i.e. an initiative led by Slovenia, in partnership with Argentina, Belgium, the Netherlands, Mongolia and Senegal, which is aimed at the adoption of the Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes. I would like to invite you to attend the side event on the MLA Initiative, which will take place on the margins of the International Law Week.

Slovenia agrees with the assessment that over the past years, there emerged global trends that gave rise to new challenges for national and international rule of law structures. One of them is artificial intelligence, which is increasingly and often positively impacting our lives. However, it is high time to ensure that it does not compromise our human rights protection.

The current means and levels of international cooperation and normativity are insufficient to meet the scale of change brought about by digital technologies. The use of artificial intelligence applications raises the questions about an applicable normative framework to adequately protect human rights.

Artificial intelligence (AI) holds the potential to serve humankind and to bring benefits to individuals, societies and businesses. We do, however, need to address the questions of fairness, of the risk of perpetuating bias and stereotypes, of discriminatory decision-making patterns, and of challenges related to interpretability, privacy, security and oversight. The design, development and implementation of AI tools must be compliant with human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law, and should support economic and political stability.

It is therefore my privilege to inform you of the topical side event, which will be held under the title *"Artificial Intelligence: Technology to Serve Humankind Setting/ Legal Standards"*. The event will be hosted by Slovenia, in partnership with the Council of Europe, during the International Law Week (Monday, 28 October 2019). We aim to reflect in a critical manner on the challenges and opportunities that AI carries for individuals and societies, and on the viability of institutional frameworks.

To conclude, the rule of law is a prerequisite for successful cooperation and peaceful settlement of disputes. It is one of the pillars of stability, predictability and progress in both international and bilateral relations, and deserves our unwavering commitment.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the report and extend to you our appreciation of your work and of your leadership of this Committee.