



SLOVENIA

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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

**Agenda item 86: The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels**

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Mr. Chairman,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Given the importance of the subject matter - the rule of law at the national and international levels, we would like to make some additional comments.

Allow me to begin by thanking the Secretary-General for his report in which he provided updates and an analysis on the assistance offered by the United Nations this past year in relation to the rule of law at the national and international levels.

The rule of law is a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment whereby all members of the society are considered equally subject to public legal codes and processes. Among other things, it helps to advance stronger institutions and more effective government action. This is extremely important in the current pandemic that is affecting almost every part of the world. The emphasis on the rule of law can help to reduce inequalities in the prevention and mitigation of disease outbreaks such as COVID-19, which is in line with sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. SDGs include elements of the rule of law and remain highly relevant in overcoming the ongoing crisis and ensuring a just, equitable and sustainable recovery for all.

Slovenia would like to stress the importance and appreciation of the United Nations rule of law assistance programmes and activities supporting the states that need assistance in this domain and helping them to build or improve their national judicial system.

The report of the Secretary General thoroughly reflects the role of the implementation and recognition of multilateral and bilateral treaties and treaty processes in advancing the rule of law. The application of this principle of governance at the international level can have a positive impact on the democratic processes at the national level. For this reason, Slovenia strongly advocates consistent efforts for ensuring the respect of the rule of law and its strengthening at the international level, especially through peaceful resolution of disputes and the respect and implementation of decisions of international courts and arbitration tribunals. In line with this, states should refrain from using force, coercion or intimidation, and instead always ground their claims in applicable international norms.

In Slovenia's view, one of the foundations of international law is the fight against impunity. When it comes to the most serious crimes, impunity is unacceptable, and it exposes the vul-

nerability of the rule of law world-wide. This is why Slovenia supports the fight against it at all levels. We believe that cooperation between states in proceedings against perpetrators of the most serious crimes before national courts should be further improved. By championing the MLA initiative on international cooperation and extradition, Slovenia is promoting the adoption of a convention that will facilitate effective cooperation at the global level. The support for the initiative is constantly growing; currently 75 countries are supporting it.

Slovenia advocates the principle of universality, which allows for the assertion of jurisdiction in cases where such atrocities may be prosecuted by all states. As a long-standing supporter of the International Criminal Court, Slovenia insists on the importance of a strong ICC, if countries prove unable to prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes. Slovenia also supports other international mechanisms to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

Mr. Chairman,

This year, Member States were invited to focus in their comments on the subtopic Measures to prevent and combat corruption. The choice of the sub-topic could not be more pertinent. Corruption disproportionately affects the poor and most vulnerable, increasing costs and reducing access to services, including health, education and justice. This is a global problem requiring global solutions; this is why the role of the United Nations is so important.

Corruption erodes trust in government and undermines the social contract. Many countries have made significant progress in curbing corruption but there is still room for improvement, especially in terms of cooperation with international financial organisations.

Slovenia has an autonomous and independent anti-corruption body, the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption. It cooperates with other comparable bodies and oversees the prevention of corruption in Slovenia, including with efforts to strengthen the integrity of public office. Its mission is to curb corruption, strengthen the rule of law, and promote integrity and transparency in the society. The foundations of its work are the principles of constitutionality, impartiality, and ethics, honouring the pledge to improve the state of the society, rather than merely prevent its further decline. Slovenia strives to constantly improve its action and regulatory framework in this field.

Slovenia is also a member of various international organisations and bodies tasked to fight corruption and assumes an active role in these endeavours.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, it is important to stress that at the international level, the rule of law, including measures to prevent and combat corruption, greatly depends on the awareness of member states about their own responsibility to respect this principle and their action towards putting it into effect at the national level and in their relations with other member states.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.