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**SLOVENIA**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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

**Agenda item 83: The rule of law at the national and international levels**

**78th Session of the General Assembly  
Sixth Committee**

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Mr/Madam Chair,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to make some additional remarks in a national capacity.

To begin, Slovenia expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General for the report presented this year and welcomes the selection of a specific theme for the 78th Session, centred on using technology to advance access to justice for all.

Slovenia firmly believes that the rule of law and respect for international law, including international human rights law and humanitarian law, are the cornerstones of peace, security, and prosperity for all nations.

The very essence of democracy and the rule of law is underpinned by access to justice, which is a fundamental human right. However, ensuring that justice is accessible to all remains a significant challenge for many countries around the world.

The digital divide, a lack of resources, and the inefficiencies in legal systems can be significant barriers to justice. In today's interconnected world, technology offers us a remarkable opportunity to bridge these gaps and advance access to justice for all.

Mr/Madam Chair,

Slovenia believes that harnessing the power of technology is not only essential but also inevitable in our quest to build more inclusive and just societies.

The deployment of digital platforms and technologies can significantly enhance the efficiency and accessibility of the justice system. Technology can also be a powerful tool for promoting legal education and literacy among the population. Remote legal services can make legal assistance available to underserved and remote areas, ensuring that no one is left behind. In this respect, it is of paramount importance to ensure that technology is accessible and affordable to all.

However, while we acknowledge the transformative potential of technology, we must also be mindful of its challenges. To ensure that technology benefits all, we must work

collectively to bridge the existing digital divide, which remains a significant issue. With the increased use of technology, we must also be vigilant about protecting the privacy and security of individuals' data by putting in place strong legal frameworks and enhancing international cooperation.

We have to be mindful as well of the growing number of governments misusing digital technologies to restrict access to information and the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms. These actions often target journalists, human rights defenders, activists, workers and union leaders, political opposition members, or others perceived as dissidents and critics.

In conclusion, Slovenia firmly believes that technology is a powerful enabler in our pursuit of justice for all. However, we must approach its deployment with a commitment to equity, inclusivity, and privacy. By working together, sharing best practices, and upholding the principles of the rule of law, we can leverage technology to create a more just and equitable world where access to justice is not a privilege but a right for all. Slovenia stands ready to collaborate with the international community to advance this crucial agenda.

I thank you.