



PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has, with reference to the Note EOSG/ROL/2014/1, the honour to refer to the Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the national and international levels of 24 September 2012 (A/RES/67/1) and a voluntary pledge of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia aimed to strengthen specific aspects of the rule of law.

On this occasion the Government of Slovenia would like to share the information on the implementation of the commitment given in that High-level meeting with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nation. The Government of Slovenia also agrees that this information can be made publicly available through Rule of Law website, together with the information on the pledges made by Member States that is already posted.

In the context of the principle of complementarity to support effective investigation and prosecution at the national level of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, in particular war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes of genocide, by improving the international framework on mutual legal assistance and extradition (MLA) through the negotiation and adoption of a new comprehensive international instrument Slovenia has in 2011, together with Argentina, Belgium and the Netherlands launched the MLA initiative following an expert meeting on the subject in The Hague, where practitioners and legal experts representing all continents concluded that the international procedural legal framework for mutual legal assistance and extradition for these international crimes is incomplete and outdated.

**The Executive Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations Headquarters**

New York

We have since then led two rounds of demarches, namely in 2012 and 2013, focusing on States Parties to the Rome Statute. We conducted outreach activities of the MLA initiative in the margins of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and previous ASP sessions. At this stage, the forum for the initiative to be negotiated is yet to be agreed upon. A significant number of States expressed explicit political support for the initiative by co-sponsoring our joint MLA statement at the 12th session of the Assembly of States Parties or the new permanent Declaration we launched recently. Currently, we are engaged in gathering global support through the third round of demarches, focusing on both States Parties and States that are not Parties to the Rome Statute, since the initiative goes beyond the scope of the Rome Statute and is not linked to it.

The initiative is now supported by more than 40 states from all parts of the world. We are pleased to note that interest in the initiative is continuing to grow. We will continue to advocate for the initiative on the bilateral and multilateral level as well as through events organized in support of the MLA initiative.

Slovenia continues to call for renewed efforts to promote the universality of the Rome Statute and the Kampala amendments. Slovenia has ratified the Kampala amendments among the first States, namely on 15 July 2013. The instrument of ratification was deposited on 25 September 2013, with the amendments previously incorporated in the Penal Code. Slovenia was the second country that ratified and implemented the Kampala amendments.

We are actively engaging in, particularly within our regional group, advocacy and technical assistance. With this aim, Slovenia, in cooperation with Liechtenstein, organized a regional Eastern European Group seminar in May 2014 dedicated to promoting universality and the ratification of the Kampala amendments. We are determined to continue such work. We welcome the new ratifications of the Kampala amendments and at any given opportunity call upon all States Parties to expedite their ratification efforts.

Slovenia also continues to support the work of the Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. In September 2014 Slovenia co-sponsored the Human Rights Council Resolution 27/3 extending the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further period of three years.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations assurances of its highest consideration. *D. M.*

New York, 30 December 2014

