

SLOVENIA

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STATEMENT

BY

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Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations

Agenda item 86

The rule of law at the national and international levels

regarding decisions that present a considerable financial burden and do not necessarily accord with our arguments, views or desired outcomes. In the same vein, Slovenia has abided by the final and binding decision of the Arbitral Tribunal that determined the land and maritime boundaries between Slovenia and Croatia, and Slovenia expects its full implementation.

Mr Chairman,

The most evident and dreadful consequences of the failure to uphold the rule of law include gross human rights violations and atrocity crimes. As a long-standing supporter of the International Criminal Court, Slovenia encourages all states that have not done so to consider joining the Court.

We have recently reiterated our support to the ICC by commemorating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute this year at a round table hosted by the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana and attended among others by ICC's first president Mr. Philippe Kirsch, as well as at our most prominent yearly foreign policy related international conference, the Bled Strategic Forum, held for the 13th time this year, where Ms Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the ICC, received the Bled Strategic Forum Distinguished Partner 2018 Award, whereas Mr O-Gon Kwon, President of the Assembly of States Parties of the ICC, featured among speakers on a special panel dedicated to the ICC anniversary.

Being concerned with certain recent strong negative statements undermining the ICC's role as an independent and impartial international court, we renewed our political support to its independence by joining the statement of a group of states initiated by Liechtenstein in that regard.

In relation to the prevention of gross human rights violations and atrocity crimes, let me take this opportunity to express Slovenia's full support for the work of the UN Secretary General and his Special Advisers and their team regarding R2P and the Prevention of Genocide. We welcome the inclusion of R2P as a supplementary item on the Agenda of the 73th Session of the UN General Assembly. We support the idea of regular inclusion of R2P in the agenda of UNGA.

We welcome the UN SG's 2018 Report entitled "The Responsibility to Protect: From Early Warning to Early Action" and his conclusions and recommendations as well as all efforts to improve the system-wide capacity of the UN to prevent and respond to serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, especially those violations that may lead to mass atrocity crimes. Prevention remains to be key and utmost should be done to prevent mass atrocities. If they do occur, ensuring accountability for mass atrocity crimes continues to be an efficient way to prevent their recurrence. Involving legal, moral and political responsibilities can help close the gap between commitment and reality.

With regard to our efforts in this field, Slovenia organizes bi-annual regional R2P Focal Points' meetings and academic conferences on R2P since 2013. In 2017 Slovenia hosted the Third European R2P Focal Points Meeting where the Chair's Statement to Orient European Action on the Responsibility to Protect and the Prevention of Mass Atrocity Crimes eR-9(ETQ0.000008

To conclude, the rule of law is the best guarantee for freedom, dignity and prosperity of all people. It is an essential prerequisite for successful cooperation between nations, peaceful settlement of disputes as well as stability, predictability and progress in international and bilateral relations. As such, it deserves our unwavering commitment. Slovenia stands ready to contribute to strengthening and promoting the rule of law at both the national and international level.