



S L O V A K I A

STATEMENT

by

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Sixth Committee**

The rule of law at the national and international levels (item 86)

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(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor at the 73rd session of the Sixth Committee, I wish to congratulate you and the other Bureau members on your appointment and wish you all the success in guiding the work of this Committee.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

I thank the Secretary-General for his report on *Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities* and express support for his continued efforts in expanding the rule of law.

Mr. Chairman,

Rule of law is at the heart of the current international order. In today's complex world, States and other subjects of international law are more than ever required to act in compliance with the relevant norms. Otherwise, the very foundations of the rule-based system may be damaged irreparably.

First of all, States are required to act in their relations in good faith and in an amical manner. Preventive mechanisms and approaches like good offices or mediation can be very important in avoiding disputes and conflicts.

Should disputes between States arise, they must be settled in peaceful ways. The International Court of Justice as one of the main organs of the UN is indispensable for the peaceful settlement of disputes. The contentious proceedings at the ICJ provide legal clarity and predictability to the parties of a dispute. Slovakia thus encourages all Members of the United Nations to join the 73 States that have done so, including Slovakia, and accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ.

Mr. Chairman,

Rule of law and justice in general cannot exist without ensuring accountability for the most serious violations of international law. We are convinced that bringing perpetrators of international crimes to justice is a basic requirement for the solution of

any conflict and for subsequent reconciliation efforts. We point also to the clear global trend of exercising victim-oriented international justice. Strengthening the rights of victims and establishing clear and simple procedures to obtain reparation for material and moral damages is of utmost importance.

In this respect, a central and indispensable role belongs to the International Criminal Court, which celebrated earlier this year the 20th anniversary of the adoption of its founding instrument, the Rome Statute. I wish to call on Member States to join the 123 States Parties to the Rome Statute in the fight against impunity. Only a universally accepted Rome Statute in combination with genuine cooperation by States can eliminate the still existing impunity gap.

Last but not least, Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations must continue to place rule of law to the fore of its agenda. The Sixth Committee as the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly can contribute by elaborating on the more theoretical and conceptual matters relating to the rule of law. At the same time, rule of law – being a cross-cutting issue – has to be an integral part of considerations and policies in other areas like peacekeeping, security sector reform or the attainment of SDGs.

This brings me to the proposed subtopics contained in the report of the Secretary-General. In our view, the subtopics on *The role of international and regional organizations, including bodies of legal experts, in promoting the rule of law* and *Promoting accountability for serious crimes under international law at the domestic level* merit further consideration. On the other hand, we consider the existing institutional links and interaction between the Sixth Committee and the ILC to be appropriate and set up in a very wise and balanced manner. Hence, my delegation does not deem necessary to explore this matter.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.