



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT**

**by**

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to the United Nations  
on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States**

**Tribute to the memory  
of His Excellency Béji Caïd Essebsi,  
President of the Republic of Tunisia**

**1 August 2019  
New York**

**-Check against delivery-**

Madam President,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States. It is with great sadness that we received the news about the passing away of H. E. Mohamed Béji Caïd Essebsi, 5th President of the Republic of Tunisia.

President Essebsi played a pivotal role in Tunisian political life, notably after the 2011 revolution and the transition of Tunisia to democracy. Prior to his Presidency, he served as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1981 to 1986 and as Prime Minister from February 2011 to December 2011, as well as in other leadership roles. As the first freely elected President, he vowed to be “president of all Tunisian men and women without exclusion” and stressed the importance of “consensus among all parties and social movements”. His efforts and determination in upholding democracy, and promoting and protecting the rights of all people in Tunisia, as well as promoting peace and stability across the region will be remembered. President Essebsi dedicated his professional life to the service for the people of Tunisia, and his long and rich political career spanned for more than 6 decades.

On behalf of the members of the Group of Eastern European States, I would like to express our deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of President Essebsi, as well as to the people and Government of Tunisia.

Thank you Madam President!