



**S L O V A K I A**

**STATEMENT**

**by**

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Mr. President,

While aligning my delegation with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union, I would like to make some further observations in national capacity.

First of all, I wish to thank President Chile Eboe-Osuji for his comprehensive presentation. I also thank the International Criminal Court for the report on its activities in 2018/19.

The General Assembly debate on this report is one of the important institutional links between the United Nations and the ICC and provides the platform for all 193 Member States of the United Nations to discuss the work of this unique judicial body.

Mr. President,

The Rome Conference of 1998 created the only permanent international judicial organ having jurisdiction over the most heinous crimes under international law. The mere existence of the Court reflects the growing conviction of the international community that accountability must be an integral component of conflict resolution. It is difficult to conceive, how a conflict-torn society could return to sustainable peace and normality without fulfilling the requirements of justice and humanity. The fact that almost 14 thousand victims participated in cases before the Court during the reporting period, is a strong evidence of a call for justice in general, as well as of the relevance of the Court for specific situations. These victims have to see justice delivered – not only in the form of due process, but also by receiving reparations and assistance to return to their normal lives.

The Court can fulfill its mission of ending impunity for the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and the crime of aggression, only if it achieves universality. We should focus all our political efforts and consistently engage in an open and patient dialogue, based on the shared values lying at the core of the ICC, to continue strengthening the rules-based international order and prevent impunity. At the same time, non-participating States shall be encouraged to join the

Rome Statute system, in order to eliminate the territorial or personal jurisdictional gaps allowing perpetrators to escape justice.

Turning to the issue of links between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, Mr. President,

There is a natural symbiosis between the International Criminal Court and the United Nations. The possibility of referrals according to Art. 13 para. (b) of the Rome Statute has broadened the spectrum of measures the Security Council can take when dealing with the maintenance of international peace and security. Slovakia encourages the Security Council to use this unique tool and make referrals, when international crimes are being committed and the national authorities bearing the primary responsibility for the prosecution of those crimes are not in a position to do so. However, unless the Security Council properly follows up on its referrals, including by ensuring co-operation by Member States, this course of action will not bear the desired results, as has been witnessed both in the Sudan/Darfur and Libya situations.

Last but not least, I wish to note that during the reporting period, the International Criminal Court has issued several decisions, including on the issue of co-operation with the Court. The jurisprudence of the ICC has a great potential to further develop and clarify questions of international criminal law, as well as to support and guide domestic efforts in the fight against impunity. In order for this potential to become an actual contribution, though, the Court needs to devote special attention to providing clear, detailed and well-founded reasoning to its decisions.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by reiterating Slovakia's strong support for the International Criminal Court, as well as for the broader cause of closing the impunity gap for crimes under international law. This is clearly reflected also in Slovakia's committed service as Vice-President and Coordinator of the New York Working Group of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute.

I thank you.