



S L O V A K I A

-Check against delivery-

STATEMENT

by

H. E. Mr. Miloš Koterec

**Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations**

**9th Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute
of the International Criminal Court**

**6 December 2010
New York**

Mr. President,

First, I would like to align myself with the statement presented earlier today by the distinguished representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union.

Let me start by pointing out the significance of the year 2010 for the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the States Parties to its Rome Statute. The first Review conference of the Statute in Uganda in May has constituted a meaningful milestone. It was a unique opportunity for States to reflect on achievements of the Court and to reaffirm their commitments to combat impunity for the most serious atrocities. Adoption of the definition of the crime of aggression, “the supreme international crime”, at the Review Conference, as well as the conditions for the exercise of jurisdiction by the Court, has properly supplemented the Rome Statute and included the crime of aggression in the list of four crimes over which the Court has jurisdiction.

The Conference offered also a room for reaffirming the key principles which the Rome Statute is based on, mainly throughout the stocktaking exercise. Slovakia welcomes interesting discussions held in Kampala on the issue of complementarity, cooperation, peace and justice and impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and affected communities. In this regard, universality and full implementation of the Statute certainly play an indispensable role and therefore, both were thoroughly reviewed within the framework of the stocktaking. Slovakia has considered the Review Conference as an occasion to demonstrate our unity and responsibility to the Rome Statute also by making further pledges and we have already actively started to implement our pledges made in Kampala.

Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate that Slovakia is deeply committed to the fight against impunity for the most serious international crimes and to ensure that perpetrators of those crimes are without exception brought to justice. For that reason, we are of the view that international community need to achieve universal acceptance of the Rome Statute. That would allow us to close the gaps that exist between what we seek and what we live. We must all carry on this effort to strengthen international peace and justice in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.

Wide ratification of the Statute remains a cornerstone in making the ICC generally universal. I state this to underline the firm commitment of Slovakia to the Court within its role as facilitator for the Plan of Action for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute. Let me mention in this regard how much we are grateful for the support the States, regional organizations, civil society and the International Committee of the Red Cross have granted to Slovakia in its activities.

In accordance with universality we see quite a wide regional representation among 114 States Parties to the Statute, but unfortunately some regions are underrepresented. On this occasion, we would like to congratulate the Republic of Moldova on becoming the latest State Party. On the other hand, in addition to ratification, ensuring adequate implementation at the national level is vital. States are expected to incorporate the elements of crimes into their national penal systems precisely in order to assure effectiveness of the principle of complementarity.

However, we understand there are several political, legal and technical difficulties. We should therefore continue our activities towards identifying obstacles that hinder attaining universal adherence to the Statute as well the effective implementation at the national level, and the adequate means to overcome them. To put it simply - universality and implementation of the Rome Statute, full cooperation with the Court and respect for its decisions, remain essential.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to compliment the Court on the achievements it has made so far in attaining its mandate and to express strong Slovakia's commitment to international criminal justice and the work and role of the International Criminal Court.

I thank you.