

SLOVENIA

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STATEMENT

BY

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Agenda item 85

Scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

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As also stated in the Working Group's report on 2016, states should take the necessary steps to strengthen mutual legal assistance and cooperation with a view to improving the effectiveness of the investigation and prosecution of crimes under universal jurisdiction. The principle of universal jurisdiction entails specific challenges, including with respect to collecting evidence in the context of inter-state cooperation. Argentina, Belgium, the Netherlands, Senegal and my country, Slovenia, are actively engaged in efforts to improve inter-state cooperation in the context of prosecuting atrocity crimes. In particular, we are working towards the adoption of a new international instrument on mutual legal assistance and extradition between states for the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, known as the MLA initiative. Fifty-five states from all regions, including states that are not members of the International Criminal Court, support this initiative and my delegation invites all states to join.

Thank you, Mr Chairman