

**SLOVENIA**

*Check against delivery*

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**Ms. Petra Langerholc,**

Madam Chairperson,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Given the importance of the subject matter - the rule of law at the national and international levels, we would like to make some additional comments.

At the outset, Slovenia would like to thank the Secretary-General for this year's report and at the same time welcomes the decision to choose a sub-topic for 76<sup>th</sup> Session, with the central role of people in contributing to the strengthening of the rule of law.

The sub-topic of this year's Secretary-General's report is focused on the rule of law as a fundamental value of a revived social contract. The essence of the modern meaning of the social contract is that it provides the conditions in which individuals can participate in all areas of social life. The prerequisite for cooperation presupposes, among other things, that the individual trusts in the system and institutions with inclusive checks and balances.

Allow me to highlight the Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels 2012. This declaration sets the fundamental framework for building social relations and creating a just social order. It has raised the awareness of the importance of the rule of law, in addition to human rights and democracy. These key elements are anchored in the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations.

Sustainable Development Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development determines the strengthening of the rule of law at the national and international levels. Together with the Declaration, sustainable Goal 16 constitutes the foundation on which States should strive to re-create the image of the rule of law. In the future, we need to place individuals at the heart of justice systems in line with Our Common Agenda and look for possibilities to transform these systems in a way that will strengthen social ties. This is especially important

today, as we are faced with the coronavirus pandemic and States must find a sensitive balance between taking measures to secure public health and the human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals that are being partially suspended in the public interest.

Madam Chairperson,

Therefore, we need to strengthen people's trust while being aware that every small step towards building this trust counts. Establishing and supporting the much-needed legal aid for vulnerable groups of people contributes to achieving this purpose.

Slovenia will support the work of the UN and its bodies and agencies in studying and raising the awareness of States based on the renewal of the social contract, a treaty that will restore social norms that facilitate human coexistence and thus directly contribute to the strengthening of the rule of law and achieving a lasting peace.

Strengthening the rule of law by protecting the individual's rights is at the forefront of Slovenia's foreign policy. Slovenia supports the International Criminal Court, which in the international community represents a means of protecting the rights of victims of the worst atrocities. Slovenia considers it highly important to fight impunity and implement the judgments of international courts and arbitral tribunals. At the same time, Slovenia is one of the initiators of MLA initiative, the purpose of which is to adopt an international treaty that will establish multilateral interstate cooperation mechanisms for the investigation and prosecution of the most serious international crimes.

By establishing a direct relationship between an individual and the rule of law, every member of society bears a responsibility. A responsibility that obligates us to contribute to the common good, which will enhance international peace and security, respect for human rights and sustainable development.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.