

Statement by

**Ambassador Boštjan Malovrh**

**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia**

**to the United Nations**

on the

**Resolution requesting an Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice**

**on climate change**

New York, 29 March 2023

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to commend Vanuatu for its strong leadership and the core group as a whole for the initiative and for bringing to the attention of the General Assembly the importance of the obligations of States in respect of climate change.

Slovenia is deeply concerned about the growing threat of climate change and its impact on the environment, economy, and society. The effects of climate change, such as rising temperatures, more frequent and severe natural disasters, and sea-level rise, to which small island developing states are particularly vulnerable, have already had devastating consequences for many countries around the globe.

Slovenia is fully aware that the seriousness of this problem urgently needs our collective and concerted response. For this reason, Slovenia believes that the International Court of Justice, as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, is well positioned to provide clarity to all States of legal obligations already agreed under international law.

The Court's Advisory Opinion, even though of non-biding character, could further encourage the continued pursuit of ongoing international instruments to tackle climate change, as well as encourage States revise, enhance and strengthen domestic environmental laws and policies. Those combined may yield greater climate action and accelerate progress to address the climate crisis by the global community.

Mr. President,

To conclude, Slovenia is of the view that the Court's Advisory Opinion would be a valuable contribution to the ongoing efforts to address the adverse effects of climate change and promote sustainable development for all nations and people. It is for these reasons that Slovenia supported this initiative also as a cosponsor.

I thank you.