

Statement by

**Ambassador Boštjan Malovrh**

**Permanent Representative of Slovenia**

at the

**United Nations Security Council Open Debate**

**The Promotion and Strengthening of the Rule of Law in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security: the Rule of Law among Nations**

New York, 12 January

Your Excellency, Mr. President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and the statement delivered by Austria on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law, and would like to convey the following remarks in its national capacity.

We thank Japan for convening today's most pertinent debate and the distinguished briefers for their valuable contribution.

The rule of law lies in the interest of us all, its purpose is to ensure that the principles we agreed on are respected and implemented by all. It has been seventy-seven years since the UN Charter was adopted. Since then, we - the international community - have achieved so much; but on so many fundamental issues, it looks like we are often making steps backwards instead of forwards. As our external environment has become more dangerous and unpredictable, respect for international law and upholding the multilateral rules-based system is the key to maintaining peace, security and stability, even more so than in the past.

Slovenia has always called for full and unconditional respect for international law and has been a vocal advocate of all international Courts and Tribunals. Adhering to their judgements is a key element of ensuring the international rule of law.

In recent times, we have seen and experienced first-hand that the available mechanisms of international law must be, and can be put into action swiftly and efficiently. It is the Security Council's responsibility to maintain this level of commitment and hold more debates on the subject of atrocities, on advancing the issue of climate change and security, and on related challenges that contribute to conflict and insecurity.

We also support the hands-on approach with the creation of investigative mechanisms. Responsibility to protect against mass atrocity crimes and addressing the processes that lead to them remains among priority areas of Slovenia's action.

Slovenia strongly supports the idea for the Security Council to hold closed meetings with members of the International Law Commission for discussions on the most pressing issues of international law.

Furthermore, we believe we should pay special attention to the implementation of the concept of accountability, with an emphasis on the most serious violations of international criminal law. The UN Security Council should do more in that regard, especially in the context of referral of international crimes to the International Criminal Court.

As we have witnessed the use of the Uniting for Peace resolution of the General Assembly, this calls for further reflection on the working methods of the Security Council on bridging the status quo caused by the use of the veto by permanent member states. In this context, Slovenia supports the proposals to limit the use of veto in certain cases, such as the French/Mexican initiative on suspension of veto powers in cases of mass atrocities or the ACT code of conduct.

Given that the implementation of international law is in the hands of individual states and enforcement mechanisms are limited, it is all the more important to realize that the international community can only overcome differences and achieve peace and security in all regions through joint efforts and an integrated approach. This is why regional, bilateral and multilateral cooperation is crucial.

We are pleased to inform you that in May this year Slovenia will host a diplomatic conference to negotiate and hopefully adopt a new MLA Convention - a convention on mutual legal assistance and extradition between States to ensure effective domestic investigation and prosecution of atrocities and to further the cooperation between states.

It is high time that world leaders and all of us work harder and work together, use all available forums to come to solutions and not to deepen the disagreements, and above all to make sure we do not regress to a world where ‘might is right’. This is what UN member states signed up for all those years ago and continue to stand behind today.