



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the

39th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
70th Anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Geneva, 13 September 2018

Thank you, Mr President.

Today we observe the 70th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which codified the crime of genocide as an independent crime for the first time in the history of humankind. The Convention became the first human rights treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly.

70 years later, not all UN Member States have ratified it. Therefore, Slovenia calls on the Member States which have not yet done so, to ratify the Convention.

Slovenia strongly supports all efforts to prevent genocide and other mass atrocities, including the implementation of the Action Plan to Prevent Genocide launched by the UN Secretary-General and the work of his Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect.

Promoting and protecting human rights and preventing mass atrocities is an ongoing process that has and will require sustained efforts over a long period of time in order to build the resilience of societies. Slovenia believes that a genuine culture of prevention should prevail. It is the only effective way to avoid the loss of human lives deeply disrupted societies severely affected for prolonged periods of time. Early warning needs to be complemented by early action to enhance the protection of populations. All of us, the UN as well as each and every Member State, have an enormous responsibility to prevent mass atrocities and make the world a better place for all.

Finally, I would like to put a question to the panelists. How can we considerably improve the implementation of the responsibility to protect populations from mass atrocity crimes, including genocide?

Thank you.