

SLOVENIA

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STATEMENT

BY

**Ms Petra Langerholc, Minister Plenipotentiary and Legal Adviser at the Permanent
Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations on**

Agenda item 85: Scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

Mr./Madam Chair,

Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to contribute further to this debate in its national capacity.

Mr./Madam Chair,

The international community must step together as one to promote the cause of justice by acting against individuals who may not otherwise be held accountable, particularly in case of crimes that shock the conscience of all humanity.

In this respect, we would like to recall the “MLA” initiative launched by Argentina, Belgium, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Senegal and Slovenia, for the adoption of a new convention on mutual legal assistance and cooperation between States with the aim of improving the effectiveness of the investigation and prosecution of core crimes at the national level.

The MLA diplomatic conference will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in May 2023. The adoption of the MLA convention would represent a major step towards enhancing state cooperation in the fight to end impunity for core crimes by putting into practice the principle of complementarity.

I would like to invite all states to participate at this conference and join the global effort to ensure accountability for the most serious crimes, since there cannot be impunity in the name of peace and justice.

I thank you, Mr./Madam Chair.