



S L O V A K I A

STATEMENT

by

Mr. Matúš KOŠUTH

**Assistant Legal Adviser
International Law Department**

Mr. Chair,

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Mr. Chairman,

In the absence of a truly universal framework for mutual legal assistance and of the universal acceptance of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, universal jurisdiction remains the guarantee against impunity of alleged perpetrators of crimes under international law. The elaboration of a convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity, as recommended by the ILC, or the conclusion of an MLA Treaty would not strip universal jurisdiction of its relevance or narrow the scope of its application. Those projects, the application of universal jurisdiction, as well as the strengthening of the ICC, would complement and reinforce each other by creating a strong legal framework aimed at ensuring accountability.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman,

The idea, whereby the gravest crimes under international law must not remain unpunished, no matter who the perpetrators are and where they may be, is, in our view, the main reason behind the application of universal jurisdiction and the biggest benefit thereof. We hope that this underlying idea will guide our deliberations during the present session.

I thank you.