



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement by Ms. Ondina Blokar Drobič, Deputy Permanent  
Representative Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Republic of Slovenia to the  
United Nations on  
International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the  
Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most  
Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab  
Republic since March 2011 (agenda item 34)**

Mr. President, dear colleagues,

I wish to begin by aligning myself with the statements delivered by the Permanent Representative of Croatia and Liechtenstein and wish to make a couple of remarks in my national capacity.

After more than eight years of destruction and desperate humanitarian situation in Syria, there has been no accountability or justice for the worst crimes under international law.

Slovenia continues to support a political settlement in Syria under the auspices of the United Nations, in line with the Security Council resolution 2254 and the Geneva communiqué.

Ending impunity is essential for the war-torn society to recover, no peace can be sustainable and reconciliation achieved if impunity enables the perpetrators continue to torture their victims. Impunity is one of the major obstacles to the prevention of grave and systematic violations of human rights. With the goal of ending impunity for the most serious crimes, one of Slovenia's priorities is promotion of international criminal justice.

On the path of delivering justice we have had some successes; however, several challenges remain.

We see the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism as one of important cornerstones of the fight against impunity. The creation of the IIIM constitutes a collective commitment by the UN membership to help ensure credible and comprehensive accountability for the crimes committed during the conflict in Syria.

We are happy to see that its work will show even more and better results in providing necessary assistance to the prosecution of those responsible for the most serious crimes.

Slovenia has been supporting IIIM since its inception. At the Third Brussels Conference on *supporting the future of Syria and the region* held in March, we were one of the cosponsors of the side event entitled *Ensuring justice and sustainable peace in Syria*, organized by Lichtenstein and Switzerland.

Slovenia also continues to support the Mechanism financially. Although the funding is still based on voluntary contributions we are glad to note that the Mechanism will become part of the UN Regular Programme Budget from 2020 onwards. Securing regular budget funding demonstrates the international community's genuine commitment to justice for the victims of crimes in Syria.

Mr. President, let me conclude by thanking everyone in the IIIM, especially its Head, Madame Catherine Marchi-Uhel for their hard work and wish to encourage them to continue.

Thank you.