



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION
OF BELGIUM TO THE UN



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF MONGOLIA



Kingdom of the Netherlands



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
PERMANENT MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

CONCEPT NOTE

A panel debate on the Ljubljana – The Hague MLA CONVENTION

Event co-organised by the Permanent Missions of Argentina, Belgium,
Mongolia, the Netherlands, Senegal and Slovenia
to the United Nations, New York
24 October 2023

The adoption of the Ljubljana – The Hague Convention is the result of more than 10 years of cooperation under the MLA Initiative, an international project led by Argentina, Belgium, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Senegal, and Slovenia. It was born out of the realisation of the legal vacuum in international criminal law regarding the prosecution of the most serious international crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Prosecuting international crimes is an extremely complex judicial process and often involve investigations that cross international borders. In many cases the crimes are committed in one State, the perpetrators and victims are in a different State, and the prosecution is carried out in a third State. If a state decides to investigate or prosecute these crimes it is almost inevitable that it will have to cooperate with one or more states. This requires States to have an adequate legal basis for exchanging evidence, interviewing and protecting witnesses and deploying investigative teams to another State or extraditing suspects. *The Ljubljana – The Hague Convention*, with its ***well-defined procedures for international legal assistance and extradition***, is the legal basis that will, for the first time in history, ***allow countries to cooperate directly*** with each other in a faster and much more efficient way for the prosecution of the most serious international crimes.

The Ljubljana – The Hague Convention forms a **landmark international treaty** that will help deliver justice to victims of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other international crimes by facilitating effective and efficient international cooperation in the domestic investigation and prosecution of these crimes.

The next step, after the adoption of the text of the Convention, is for States to sign and ratify the Convention. For that purpose, a **Signing Conference will be held in The Hague, The Netherlands on February 14-15, 2024**. The Signing Conference will be open to all States and the save-the-date information can be found [here](#). A formal invitation will be sent in the coming months.

The aim of the event is to hold a breakfast discussion on the importance of the Ljubljana – The Hague Convention and its future implementation in prosecuting the most serious international crimes.