



**12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute  
Statement of the Republic of Cyprus  
delivered by Ambassador Dr. Kyriacós Kouros**

Madam President,  
Members of the Assembly,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Officials of the Court,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Cyprus fully aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Lithuania on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Cyprus also supports the joint Statement delivered by the Netherlands on the initiative to open negotiations with all States on a new multilateral treaty on mutual legal assistance and extradition.

Most issues have been comprehensively addressed in these two Statements so I would like to merely highlight two points.

Madam President,

My first point relates to efforts to promote the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute. Universality of the Rome Statute together with its full and effective domestic implementation, are essential for ending impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of international concern, thus, contributing to the prevention of such crimes, and guaranteeing lasting respect for international justice. In this context, ratification and full implementation of the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities is also important.

We are encouraged by the accession to the Statute earlier this year of Côte d'Ivoire, bringing the total number of States Parties to 122. This increasing support for the Court from all the regions

of the world bears testament to its continuing appeal and the steady progress it is making towards closing the existing gaps to accountability.

In September this year, Cyprus deposited its Instrument of Ratification of the Kampala Amendments, one of which relates, of course, to the Crime of Aggression. We welcome the fact that a number of States Parties have also ratified the Amendments, or are in the process of doing so.

As a consistent, proud supporter of the ICC from its early days, Cyprus feels privileged to have been appointed, earlier this year, as co-focal point for the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute. We remain committed to continuing the close cooperation with all stakeholders, including yourself Madam President, the other co-focal points – Japan and Romania - the Court, States – both Parties and non-Parties - and last but certainly not least, civil society.

Madam President,

My second point relates to concerns that have been raised by African States Parties in relation to the ICC. As a human construct, the ICC is not and cannot be perfect. Yet, it offers a unique promise to all of us and foremost to the victims, wherever they may come from, that justice will be served. All of us who have signed up to the Rome Statute, certainly need to address these concerns, within the ASP structures. We need to listen carefully and collectively seek solutions, within the parameters of the Rome Statute. In this regard, we very much welcome the fact that discussions continue to take place and look forward to further constructive dialogue.

Before concluding, I would be remiss if I did not express my deep appreciation to all the stakeholders of the Rome Statute for their dedicated work and reiterate Cyprus' unwavering commitment to the ICC.

Thank you for your attention.