



AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY
THE HAGUE

**Statement by H.E. Gyula Sümeghy
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Embassy of Hungary to the Kingdom of the Netherlands
at the General Debate of the 12th Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome
Statute of the International Criminal Court**

Madame President,

Members of the Assembly,

Distinguished Delegates,

I am honoured to address the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court today on behalf of the Government of Hungary,

First of all my delegation would like to commend the Bureau and the Secretariat of the Assembly, the Court, the Committee on Budget and Finance, the facilitators and both Working Groups of the Bureau for their devoted work in the preparation of the 12th session of the Assembly. I would also like to express our appreciation to all other stakeholders of the Rome Statute, including the representatives of the civil society who have proven their commitment to the cause of the ICC.

Madame President,

At this point let me highlight only a few specific issues that – in our view - carry utmost importance.

Welcoming the 122nd accession to the Rome Statute on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire Hungary wishes to underline that we should step up our efforts to achieve universality of the Rome Statute.

Recent developments show us that the fight against impunity and the strengthened international cooperation to continue preventing the most serious crimes are more important than ever. With reference to the foreseen special segment on the indictment of sitting Heads of State and Government, Hungary aligns herself with the position of the European Union and its Member States and fully supports the endeavour to find a solution that is in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Rome Statute and fully respects the independence of the Court.

Madame President,

Putting the ICC in a broader international context, we must address a key aspect of its work, namely its special relationship with the Security Council. Along with proprio motu investigations of the Prosecutor and referrals by States Parties referrals by the Security Council are vital means to ensure accountability globally. In this regard it must be acknowledged that the Council still needs to develop a coherent and consequent referral strategy with clear criteria to guide its future decisions.

Additionally, as the Security Council has no institutional framework to address follow-up issues, it is of utmost importance that it creates a permanent mechanism for this purpose. In view of these challenges, Hungary believes that both the ICC and the States Parties should intensify their interaction with the Security Council in order to secure a stronger and more predictable support to the ICC's work from the Council.

Madame President,

Complementarity is one of the main founding principles of the ICC. Under the Rome Statute system the prosecution of major international crimes is primarily the responsibility of States Parties. Therefore, States have the obligation to adopt the necessary national implementation measures. States Parties must also provide assistance to national capacity building efforts to enable all States to live up to their commitments.

Hungary is of the view that, States Parties, by ratifying the Rome Statute, do not give up their national sovereignty. On the contrary, they exercise their responsibility by undertaking to establish a robust national legal regime, credible and effective national judicial institutions, thereby creating a significant line of defense against major external and internal atrocities.

Madame President,

As the facilitator for legal aid in the Hague Working Group I would like to draw attention to the excellent cooperation of the representatives of States Parties, the Court, the legal profession and the civil society, which enabled us to make real achievements regarding the reassessment of the legal aid system to foster a more efficient functioning of the Court.

In this aspect I would like to highlight the issues of the indigence, strategic planning in the context of legal aid for defence and the legal representation of victims. Acknowledging its importance, Hungary will dedicate a special side-event to the last topic, co-hosted by the Coalition for the ICC.

Last but not least, Hungary wishes to indicate its full support to a new multilateral treaty on mutual legal assistance and extradition concerning the crime of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity that is proposed by Argentina, Belgium, the Netherlands and Slovenia.

In conclusion I would like to reiterate our deepest commitment to the International Criminal Court and to the fight against impunity for the most serious international crimes.

I thank you for your attention.