

**Statement by  
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of the International Criminal Court  
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Mr President,  
Distinguished delegates,

Latvia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and its Member States. I also take this opportunity to congratulate you, Excellency, on your appointment as the President of this Assembly. Latvia is eager to cooperate closely with you and the international community of States to achieve our mutual goal of a just world free from impunity and horrors of atrocity crimes. Latvia appreciates the work done by the former President, Ms Tiina Intelmann, and is grateful for her contribution to the ICC. We would also like to thank the outgoing judges for their commendable work and dedication and congratulate the newly elected ones wishing them all success.

Mr President,

It is a great pleasure to address you today, to reaffirm Latvia's support for the International Criminal Court and the principles it stands for. It should be remembered that justice, peace and ending impunity are concepts which have meaning only if we as the members of international community are ready to uphold them together and rise with firmness against individuals who would otherwise try to avoid justice.

As we know, the ICC has no armies or international police force ready to enforce its judgments and ensure the protection of witnesses and evidence. It falls onto States Parties of this Court and other relevant members and bodies of the international system to guarantee the independence and the authority of the ICC. Therefore, non-cooperation is the most serious threat which sabotages the goals of the Rome Statute and betrays the victims who have put their trust into the ICC and its States Parties. Latvia notes that non-cooperation may take many forms, including refusal of arrest, threatening and bribing of victims and witnesses, tampering of evidence and politicised intrusions into Court's criminal proceedings.

We cannot emphasize enough the global endeavour of the ICC, the global vision for justice and accountability, and fairness of trial. From the Americas to Asia and Oceania, from Africa to Europe, people from all over the world have agreed to this common purpose and shared values in establishing the ICC. The ICC is our court. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that when all other mechanisms have failed, when a state has been found unable or unwilling to prosecute those responsible for committing Rome Statute crimes, that the ICC is allowed and supported to fulfil its mandate. The Trust Fund for Victims is also an important tool to this end, and recently Latvia has made several contributions to it. We are proud that our ex-president Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga is actively taking part in the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims for the accomplishment

of its valuable mission.

Mr President,

This year has been especially turbulent one for States Parties and Non-States Parties alike. Latvia condemns Russia's aggression against Ukraine, including illegal annexation of Crimea. Those responsible for international crimes committed against civilians in Eastern Ukraine, including the downing of the MH17 flight, must be prosecuted and tried. Latvia condemns the atrocity crimes committed by terrorist groups in Iraq, Syria and other countries, as well as the crimes committed by the Assad regime in Syria. In this regard, Latvia reiterates the call for justice and the role of the ICC in its achievement, as stated earlier today on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Mr President,

Lastly, I am honoured to announce that this year Latvia ratified the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. We call upon States Parties who have not yet done so to ratify the amendments. On its own each ratification may seem a small matter, but, if all States Parties ratify the Kampala amendments, that may prove to be a significant step towards ending aggression and impunity.

Thank you for your attention.