



**Statement by H.E. Ms. Orsolya Szijjártó
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Embassy of Hungary to the Kingdom of the Netherlands
at the General Debate of the 14th Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome
Statute of the International Criminal Court**

Mr. President, Members of the Assembly, Distinguished Delegates.

It is my honor to address the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on behalf of the Government of Hungary.

We align ourselves with the statement of the European Union. At this point I wish to add a few points in national capacity.

Mr. President,

The international community, in cooperation with the Government of Iraq, has been committed to the creation of the rule of law in Iraq. Due to the well-known developments of the past years, cooperation among the communities that form Iraq is under serious threat. In various international fora Hungary has, from the beginning, called for the investigation of the serious atrocities recently committed in Iraq and Syria and for the international prosecution of the perpetrators. We have to keep this question on our agenda, whether it concerns crimes committed against Muslims or ethnic or religious minorities.

Hungary is also of the view that in light of the vicious trend of deliberate destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria, ICC should play a role similar to that in the Mali case in relation to the destruction of cultural and religious sites and artefacts by Da'esh and associated groups, provided the legal basis for such investigations is established.

In view of the current situation in the Middle East and with regard to other threats to international peace and stability, the number of regional conflicts and terrorist acts, the need for making steps towards the universality of the Rome Statute might be more compelling than ever.

Mr President,

Bearing in mind the last resort nature of our Court, complementarity is of key importance. The ICC as an organisation of great importance in international jurisdiction relies on the support and cooperation of the States Parties who are bound by the Rome Statute and therefore national jurisdictions should be strengthened and rendered more effective.

Hungary wishes to underline the importance of cooperation on the part of States Parties, as well as the need to execute ICC arrest warrants according to the Court's founding document. Cases of non-cooperation with the Court remain worrying. We also note that the lack of follow up by Security Council to its referrals, in particular its lack of response to notifications of non-cooperation continues to hamper accountability.

Mr. President,

We are aware that growing case burden and engagement of the ICC requires adequate funds. Investigations, support and reparations for victims, and last but not least the general functioning of the Court must not be hampered by the lack of financial means.

In this regard, we are particularly concerned about the statement recently made by the Prosecutor according to which she might not be able to conduct a new investigation in Libya due to the lack of resources. Hungary shares the view that justice is inexpensive compared to the terrible human and financial costs of atrocity crimes. As regards the budgetary implications of referrals, Hungary calls for the relationship agreement concluded between the UN and the Court to be fully implemented.

Mr President,

Hungary recognises the important role played by the Advisory Committee on Nominations (ACN) of judges of the ICC. In light of the difficulties faced by the ACN Working Group mandated to recommend to the Bureau a group of nine nominees for election to the Advisory Committee, Hungary would support a review of the current terms of reference of the ACN.

Mr President,

In conclusion I would like to once again reiterate our deepest commitment to the ICC and to the fight against impunity for the most serious international crimes.

I thank you all for your attention.