



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**

**Assembly of States Parties  
to the Rome Statute of  
the International Criminal Court  
Fifteenth Session  
The Hague, 16-24 November 2016**

**GENERAL DEBATE  
STATEMENT BY GREECE**

Mr. President,

Representatives of the Court,

Dear Delegates,

On the occasion of the General Debate, Greece has decided this year to post the present Statement to the website of the Court and would like to thank the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties for giving it this opportunity.

Mr. President,

First of all, we wish to state that Greece fully subscribes to the Statement of the Slovak Presidency on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude for your relentless efforts to rebuilding and reinforcing the commitment to the Court and its role in the global fight against impunity and to assure you once again that we stand ready to assist you in the pursuit of this important task.

Mr. President,

Since the very beginning Greece has been a staunch supporter of the Court and will continue to be strongly committed to the fight against impunity for the most heinous crimes of concern to the international community. In this respect, we note with satisfaction the important judicial developments this year before the Court, including the initiation of preliminary examinations and investigations in many more situations across the world.

Perhaps the most important factor for future success is the steadfast and principled commitment of the States Parties to support the ICC's work and respect the Court's independence.

In this regard, Greece cannot but express its deep regret and concern for the recent withdrawals of certain States from the Rome Statute, which represent a setback to the efforts of our community of States Parties to ensure full cooperation for the Court's operations and to make the Rome Statute truly universal.

We would like, therefore, to echo your invitation to those States for a frank and constructive dialogue, albeit with full respect for the legal framework and the basic principles underpinning the Rome Statute, the integrity and the independence of the Court.

As it was repeatedly stressed, the Court does not compete domestic jurisdictions and it only intervenes in cases where the State concerned is unwilling or unable to fulfill its primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute crimes committed within its jurisdiction. In this respect, the accession to the Rome Statute and the adoption of the necessary implementing legislation are of the essence for the achievement of the goals referred to in the Preamble of the Rome Statute, namely the end of impunity for atrocities and the prevention of their commitment.

At the same time, we cannot overemphasize the crucial importance of the widest possible cooperation and judicial assistance to the Court in its own investigations and prosecutions, in order for the latter to successfully fulfil its mission. We take, therefore, this opportunity to appeal to all States that have not yet done so to join the Rome Statute, adopt the necessary domestic legislation and accede to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC.

Mr. President,

Another important issue in our agenda this year is the budget of the Court for 2017. Greece, despite its critical economic situation and the financial difficulties that has been facing during the last years, has always fulfilled its financial obligations towards the Court and notes with great concern the high level of outstanding contributions.

At the same time, while acknowledging that providing international criminal justice of high quality requires substantial financial resources, we would like to appeal for sound and consistent budget proposals which would also take into account the budgetary and financial constraints of the States Parties.

Mr. President,

Greece would like to reiterate its readiness and willingness to contribute to a calm, orderly and constructive debate with all relevant stakeholders during this year's session of the Assembly.

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