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Statement on behalf of the Government of Mongolia

***At the International Criminal Court
Nineteenth Session of the Assembly of States Parties***

General Debate

The Hague

14 December 2020

By H.E. O. Och

Ambassador of Mongolia

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to address the Assembly of State Parties on behalf of the Government of Mongolia.

The ICC is the first standing institution with universal jurisdiction set up to enforce accountability for the gravest of crimes at the international level. While observing that the ICC has made important contributions at the global level to promote rule of law and to uphold human rights since the Rome Statute's entry into force, the Court has been confronted with unprecedented challenges, which have to be addressed respectively.

At a time, when the rules based international order is facing increased pressure, the strengthening of its criminal justice system is more important than ever.

Mongolia continues to support the International Criminal Court and its work as an independent and impartial judicial institution. We are committed to uphold the principles and values preserved in the Rome Statute.

Mongolia believes in rules based international order and the strengthening of the international criminal justice system is imperative. The ICC remains an important guarantor of the respect of the international human rights law.

We align ourselves with the previous statements to oppose any measures that attempt to influence independent court proceedings through political pressure.

Mr. President,

Mongolia was one of the first members of the Asia Pacific Region to sign the Rome Statute in 2000 and to ratify it in 2002. We are proud to be one of the co-founding members of the Court.

Mongolia's early ratification of the Statute of the Court is affiliated with its belief that the rule of law and international justice system should be the basis of world order, and that all States, big and small alike, should take active part in making this goal a reality.

The Parliament of Mongolia ratified "Amendment on the crime of aggression to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which was adopted in Kampala, 11 June 2010," and promulgated a law on 31 January 2020.

In its work to put an end to impunity for perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to international community, ICC withholds common norms of international organizations to ensure equal geographical representation in its system.

Given the fact that Asia Pacific Region is under represented in the Judicial part of the Court, and Mongolia in particular, has never had sitting judge on the Court, the Government of Mongolia has decided to put forward a candidate for the Judicial election 2021-2030 of the ICC.

I strongly believe that Mongolian candidate could immensely contribute to the noble mission of the Court, given his extensive experience in all fields of the domestic Judiciary system. I look forward to positive consideration of the Mongolian candidature for the forthcoming election.

Mr. President,

Since the inception of the international criminal justice system, Mongolia has stood together with the international community in pursuit of accountability for the gravest international crimes.

The world, we live in today, is indeed, complex, at times chaotic, uncertain and unpredictable. The rule based international order is facing increased challenges. We believe the fight against impunity today is more important than ever.

Mongolia believes and thrives to promote a global order based on the rule of law, where the perpetrators of the most serious crimes have no shelter.

In this regard, Mongolia has joined the new Multilateral Initiative to support the idea to open negotiations on a procedural multilateral treaty on mutual legal assistance and extradition for the most serious international crimes.

Together with Argentina, Belgium, Senegal, Slovenia and the Netherlands, we have been working towards the adoption of a new Multilateral Treaty for Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition for Domestic Prosecution of the Most Serious International Crimes.

As a practical tool to enable States to both comply with their international obligations and empower their national judiciaries, it is proposed to set up a modern procedural multilateral treaty on MLA and extradition, which would facilitate better practical cooperation between States investigating and prosecuting these crimes.

Mr. President,

Mongolia is fully committed to continue to work together with all partners to further the activities of ICC and strengthen the system of international criminal justice.

Thank you for your attention,

H.E. O.Och
Ambassador of Mongolia