

## TRADUCCIÓN

Distinguished President of the Assembly

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates:

On behalf of Costa Rica, it is an honor to address this Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, and to value the opportunity to express our commitment to the fight against impunity, and our solidarity with the victims of the worst crimes, at this time when the world faces extraordinary challenges.

As a disarmed democracy committed to the international institutionality, Costa Rica recognizes that the last year has been particularly difficult for the International Criminal Court. It has been a year of challenges for the international system, which faces the onslaught of the pandemic and the erosion caused by exacerbated nationalisms that compromise international cooperation, necessary to seek common solutions to the global problems of humanity.

We have carefully read the report with the results of the evaluation of the group of independent experts on the International Criminal Court, which we thank. This is an effort of singular value, which will undoubtedly contribute to strengthening the international criminal justice system. The Court also has internal challenges that it must address. The attention to many of the recommendations of the group of experts will allow to achieve necessary advances in its efficiency and effectiveness.

Costa Rica deems urgent prompt action by the States and by all the organs of the Court, in order to implement, in a transparent and inclusive manner, and with the participation of civil society, all those recommendations of the report that do not represent an additional economic cost, especially those related to governance and efficiency aspects.

Our commitment is to work for a stronger, more equitable and more effective multilateral system.

Mr. President,

This session is of particular relevance because it will allow us to renew the integration of the Judiciary and the ownership of the Office of the Prosecutor, which will be responsible for promoting the required changes, in line with the Objectives of the Rome Statute.

In this regard, I highlight the importance of choosing highly qualified people, jurists with solid experience, leadership and vision, who protect the interests of the Court, and above it, the dignity of the victims of the crimes that are tried there. For this reason, Costa Rica is proud to have presented a candidate for judge, Mr. Sergio Ugalde, whom many of you recognize, both for being a highly qualified jurist, and for his integrity, independence, and resolute commitment to the values and mission of the Rome Statute. Costa Rica thanks the States Parties for their support of this candidacy.

Mr. President,

The international criminal justice system has faced unfortunate acts of hostility and intimidation this year. Costa Rica, together with Switzerland, made intense efforts to obtain the support of numerous countries from all regions, and to unite in defense of the Rome Statute. We guarantee that in our territory, the unilateral sanctions issued against its officials will not have any effect. We will continue to give the Court our unconditional support in the face of any intimidating act against its judicial independence and its mandate.

Likewise, Costa Rica wishes to emphasize the importance that the Court can count on effective cooperation from its Member States. Lack of cooperation not only prevents the perpetrators from being prosecuted, but is also an obstacle to provide victims the protection and justice they demand and deserve. In this sense, Costa Rica considers that a renewed dialogue between the States Parties and the Court, leading to effective cooperation, is vital.

The Rome Statute confers a central role to the victims and their right to a dignified reparation, for which the States have a special obligation with them, especially with the most vulnerable, such as women, girls and boys. For this reason, where possible, we must reinforce activities to assist victims of sexual violence, and to rehabilitate those who have suffered physical and psychological trauma. This reflects the importance and the humanistic role of the International Criminal Court.

Mr. President,

I would like to express the gratitude of my country for your commitment to work towards the fulfillment of the objectives of the Rome Statute. I highlight the tenacious work of the Secretary of the Assembly, the Vice Presidents, the facilitators and focal points, whose contribution to the management of the Court is fundamental.

This Court is the only permanent international criminal justice organization, called to be an example as a responsible, independent and professional judicial body. Costa Rica will continue to promote the values of the Rome Statute in a firm, consistent and respectful manner, to achieve their universality.

Thank you.