
**Assembly of States Parties
of the
International Criminal Court**

**Nineteenth Session
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**Statement by Denmark in
the General Debate**

**Delivered by H.E. Minister for Foreign
Affairs
of the Kingdom of Denmark,
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Mr. President,

It is a great pleasure to address this nineteenth Assembly of States Parties.

The Court is at a crucial point in its development. As parties to the Rome Statute, we are part of shaping the future of the Court.

The Court is an important part of upholding the rules-based international order. It is also still a young institution, and is evolving to overcome the challenges it faces.

Mr. President,

We have worked hard to launch the review process and now have a solid basis for moving forward.

I urge all to engage constructively in the efforts by the presidency to reach an ambitious resolution on assessment and implementation of the recommendations advanced by the experts.

The review is an opportunity to show commitment to a well-functioning, efficient and effective Rome Statute System. This is a joint responsibility for States Parties and the Court.

Mr. President,

The Rome Statute is based on the principle of complementarity. It relies on the cooperation of States Parties.

We must continue our efforts in these areas, and refine the balance between national jurisdictions and the Court. A well-managed and results-oriented Court is the best tool for achieving the goal of universality.

We work hard to achieve universal membership of the Court. But we also recognize that some States are not yet ready to join the Statute.

Our relationship with non-State parties must be based on dialogue and mutual respect. Suggestions for reform from non-state parties are not necessarily illegitimate. But we will fiercely protect the principles of independence and impartiality that underpin the Rome Statute.

Mr. President,

The election of highly qualified Judges is paramount. It is foundational for the quality of trials and development of consistent jurisprudence. How we approach the upcoming elections greatly impacts the Court.

Equally important is electing the next Prosecutor. The Prosecutor selects and prioritizes cases, thereby shaping the work of the Court. We need the most qualified person for this complex job. My delegation fully supports finding a consensus candidate.

Mr. President,

I want to pay tribute to the strong work of the outgoing Prosecutor, the President of the Court and to Mr. O-gon Kwon, President of our Assembly.

Finally, I want to thank our ambassador Jens-Otto Horslund, whose tireless work as vice-president of the Assembly is a credit to his country.

Mr President,

The Court is a young institution, but already a key pillar in the fight against impunity.

The Court must be provided with the necessary resources and support. We owe it to the victims to persevere in the fight for justice and accountability. Denmark will continue to support this endeavor.

Thank you.