



Republic of Malawi

STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

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DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

**DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES
PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CRIMINAL COURT**

THE HAGUE

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**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on your deserved election to steer the work of this Assembly during this very difficult time when the whole world is grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic. Let me assure you of my delegation's cooperation and support.

Mr. President

The ASP19 is being held at the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic which has disrupted the normal functioning of all sectors of life, and the International Criminal Court is has not been spared. I am glad to note that the Court adapted its methods of work focusing on technology as a tool to continue the fight against impunity. Cases were heard virtually.

Mr. President

The year 2020 has seen a number of initiatives taking shape to strengthen the Rome Statute system and improve its efficiency. For instance, this is the first time in its 20 years of existence, that a comprehensive review has been undertaken by a panel of Independent Experts. Like any institution, the review of the functioning of the Rome Statute System has come at an opportune time when the International Criminal Court and the system is under pressure from critics. Malawi welcomes the recommendations made by the Independent Experts and is confident that States Parties and all stakeholders will favourably

consider and put in place an appropriate mechanism for their implementation.

Mr. President

Malawi believes that an important building block for the proper functioning of the Court is the staffing of the Office of the Prosecutor and the caliber of the Judges that are elected. It is pleasing to note that the Committee on the Election of the Prosecutor and the Committee of the Election and Nomination of Judges have finalized their work and that the ASP is taking forward the processes. Although challenges remain, this is a step in the right direction if the Rome Statute System is to remain a pillar in fight against impunity for crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression.

Mr. President

Malawi remains a supporter of the International Criminal Court in the fight against impunity for serious crimes. The Court still faces pressures which are making it difficult for it to properly carry out its mandate. In that context, Malawi endorsed a group statement of States Parties in support of the International Court on the occasion of the ICC Report to the General Assembly on 2 November 2020. My delegation wishes to reiterate its commitment to uphold and defend the principles and values enshrined in the Rome Statute.

Mr. President

Last but not least is the issue of resources for the Court to carry out its functions. The assessed contributions constitute the bulk of resources on which the Court relies. As a State Party committed to international criminal justice, Malawi paid its assessed contributions for the year 2020 and wishes to urge other States Parties to seriously consider paying their assessed contributions.

Mr. President

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate my delegation's commitment to constructively engage with other delegations for the successful outcomes on all agenda items of the ASP19.

I thank you