



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Assembly of States Parties
to the Rome Statute of
the International Criminal Court
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GENERAL DEBATE

Statement

December 2021

Mme President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

While fully subscribing to the statement delivered by Slovenia on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, Greece would like to seize this opportunity in order, first and foremost, to reaffirm its staunch support to the International Criminal Court and its readiness to defend the Court's central role in the global fight against impunity by preserving the integrity of its Statute and promoting its universality.

Madame President,

Last year there was a significant change in the leadership of the Court, as a new President, six new Judges and a new Prosecutor were elected. Greece would like to congratulate them for their election and wish them every success in the exercise of their duties. The Court is at a critical junction and the expectations are high. It is Greece's hope that this change in leadership, which is expected to be completed this year with the election of the Deputy Prosecutors, will mark the beginning of a new era for the Court.

Furthermore, regarding elections of high ICC officials in general and ahead of the 2023 elections of judges, Greece is of the view that the establishment of a permanent vetting mechanism, drawing upon the recent experience and the relevant lessons learned, should be considered.

Madame President,

Greece wishes also to commend the Court for its resilience in facing recently some unprecedented external challenges, its ability to adjust its working methods in order to continue its activities in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic crisis, as well as for the progress achieved in several situations and cases. It is equally encouraging to see the initiatives undertaken in order to establish a safe and inclusive workplace culture and an environment free from any form of discrimination or harassment. In this respect, the appointment of a Focal Point for Gender Equality and the relevant High-Level Statement of the ICC Principals last April are particularly welcomed.

Madame President,

Last year, this Assembly has established a Review Mechanism tasked with providing adequate follow-up to the Recommendations contained in the 2020 Independent Experts' Report concerning the improvement of the functioning of the Court and the Rome Statute system in general. The Review Process has already started and has proved to be an inherently complex and challenging exercise. It presents, however, an invaluable opportunity to address identified weaknesses and shortfalls by providing appropriate remedies. It is the duty of us all to pursue this goal also next year by continuing the thorough and comprehensive assessment of these Recommendations and ensuring their appropriate implementation, which that can indeed enhance the

Court's performance and its delivering of justice. In this respect, the need to proceed with caution and full respect for the judicial and prosecutorial independence cannot be overemphasized. In the same vein, initiatives already undertaken by the Court to standardize, improve and speed up its procedures should also be taken into consideration.

Madame President,

Greece notes with great concern that, due to the high amount of outstanding contributions, the Court had for a second consecutive year to grapple with liquidity issues. Indeed, liquidity problems tend to become not only recurrent but also, as the Committee of Budget and Finance pointed out, a strategic concern for the Court. In this regard, Greece reminds that it is the duty of all States Parties to endow the Court with the financial resources necessary for the fulfilment of its mandate and would like to call on the States Parties concerned to do their outmost to improve the current status of their contributions.

Thank you Mme President