



**Government Offices of Sweden**

**STATEMENT**

**by**

**Her Excellency Ann Linde**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs**

**At the General Debate**

**20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute**

**The Hague**

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**Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden**

Madam President,

It is a great pleasure to address this twentieth Assembly of States Parties. Allow me to congratulate you, Madam President, on taking up your position earlier this year, as well as Prosecutor Karim Khan and the new judges. You can count on Sweden's full support.

Accountability and the fight against impunity are top priorities of my Government's foreign policy. Sweden has consistently expressed our steadfast support for the integrity and independence of the Court, and I want to express our sincere appreciation to the Court, its officials and supporters around the world for their tireless efforts to end impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern.

Universal ratification of the Rome Statute lies at the heart of the promise of the ICC and – more broadly – international justice. Perceptions of selective justice must be countered with more States Parties, more support for the Court and more justice, not less.

Madam President,

In order to end impunity, all States Parties to the Rome Statute, as well as non-Party States as required in the case of Security Council-referred cases, must do their utmost to fulfil their obligations to cooperate with the ICC.

The ICC is a court of last resort only and the Court's success lies in its complementary nature. The Prosecutor is reaching out to States Parties to further deepen cooperation in

this regard and Sweden stands ready to engage with the Court. Swedish prosecutors are active in prosecuting international crimes, not least with regards to the situation in Syria. Sweden continues to call for a referral of the situations in Syria and in Myanmar to the ICC, which would ensure that the Court can investigate the full scope of Rome Statute crimes.

Sweden calls on all States to investigate and prosecute serious international crimes and ensure that they have the appropriate domestic legislation in place to do so.

I am also pleased to announce that Sweden is about to deposit the instruments of acceptance of the Kampala amendments.

Madam President,

The ongoing review process of the Court and its organs represents an invaluable opportunity for the Court, its organs and the States Parties to further strengthen the Rome Statute and ensure it remains a modern instrument, which can aptly respond to emerging threats.

The independent expert review provides clear guidance on how the Court can work more effectively and improve management and a healthier working environment with zero tolerance to bullying and sexual harassments.

We must maintain the momentum to reform the Court.

Sweden welcomes the due diligence measures taken ahead of the election of deputy prosecutors and underscores the importance of the establishment of a permanent vetting mechanism for all elected officials.

Madam President,

The Court must be provided with the necessary resources to be able to effectively carry out its mandate. Sweden is concerned by the financial pressure placed on the Court due to States' late or outstanding contributions. We call on States Parties to pay their contributions in full and on time.

In order to make justice meaningful for victims of atrocity crimes, the Rome Statute provides for reparative justice for victims. Sweden has been the largest contributor to the Trust Fund for Victims, with total contributions of approximately 3 million euros during the period 2019–2021. I encourage other States Parties to contribute to the fund.

Finally, Madame President, I would like to extend a special thank you to our civil society colleagues. We highly value their constructive engagement with us and the Court in our common endeavour to maintain and strengthen the operation of the ICC, and we condemn any threats to or pressure on CSO:s cooperating with investigations.

I thank you.