



Statement of H.E. Ambassador Iván UDVARDI, Head of the Hungarian Delegation to the 7th Session of the Assembly of State Parties of the Rome Statute

Thank you Mr Chairman, and first let me congratulate to you for taking the position of Chairman of this Assembly and wish you success in this demanding work. Let me also express on the occasion of the opening session of this 7th Assembly meeting of the States Parties to the Rome Statute my sincere gratitude towards all those who furthered the cause of the Court through their excellent professional work, their attitude, their willingness to make running this new system of justice almost unprecedented in the past that is able to punish the most heinous crimes.

This year we may celebrate the tenth anniversary of the creation of the Statute of Rome the moment in history that provided unique opportunity to erase impunity in crime cases that shocked the world. As now one hundred and eight countries share the same ideas we may bravely state that the universality of the Statute became unquestionable. However we member states should do our utmost efforts to increase not only the sheer number of states parties but involve regions that are underrepresented. The map of membership shows large white spots of non-member states with huge and creative populations, invaluable contributions to the development of the modern international legal system and other resources, so why should they not join us in further refining the Court's activities to provide a better world where war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity and even the still undefined crime of aggression are rather prevented by the operations of the Court than punished by it.

During this assembly meeting we shall deal with financial issues in the appropriate extent. The main figures of the draft Budget seem reasonable for us, but we would like to emphasize that any further raising of the contributions are acceptable only if the operational activity of the Court significantly increases. The position of the Hungarian delegation is that prudent reducing the administrative costs of the Court to the minimum should result in substantive savings. We urge those State Parties in arrears to submit their contributions to the ICC budget as it is expected.

Seeing the activity of the Court we may note that three individuals were surrendered to the Court, enabling it to conduct judicial proceedings against each of them in The Hague. It sheds light on the necessity of the enhancing the cooperation between the Court and the States in connection with arrests, providing evidences and any other means of international criminal procedure. It should serve the credibility of the Court, if the seven outstanding warrants of arrest would be enforced. The fact that these warrants have been pending for three years undermines the credibility of the Court.

This year Assembly should decide on the venue and date of the First Review Conference of the Statute. In this context my delegation wishes to emphasize that the aim of the review conference is to harmonise the provisions of the Statute and other documents with the practice of the Court not to reopen the articles for further debate.

As regards to the venue of the review conference Hungary is very much inclined to seriously consider other locations than the venues of the previous Assembly Meetings. Practical considerations may suggest to follow the principle of cost consciousness but there are other aspects too. Such highlighted event may obviously induce significant interest in the region towards the activity of the Court therefore itself may serve as the most effective outreach program.

During the Review Conference the Parties will have the opportunity to include the new provisions on the crime of aggression and the connected procedural rules. We are convinced that the procedural provisions in this type of crime can be defined and then conducted without harming or questioning the authority of other political or judicial bodies.

Mr. Chairman,

Even though we are at the very beginning of the seventh Assembly of States parties to the Statute of Rome, seeing the very busy agenda of this meeting and the resumed sessions we may feel the time constrains. We must concentrate on the effectiveness of our work in order to maximise the results that should lead to a more enhanced working infrastructure of the Court. The effective operation of the Court enhances our chances to reach the aims of the now ten years old Statute of Rome.

To conclude Mr. Chairman, allow me to express my delegation's sincere appreciation to the judges of the ICC and all the officials and workers who perform their duties in perilous circumstances. Such continuous generous effort enables the Court to achieve considerable progress.

Thank you.