



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**Assembly of States Parties**  
**to the Rome Statute of**  
**the International Criminal Court**  
Twenty-first Session  
The Hague, 5-10 December 2022

**GENERAL DEBATE**

**Statement**

**December 2022**

Madame President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

As this year we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Greece, while fully associating itself with the statement delivered by the Czech Presidency on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate its unwavering commitment to the work of the International Criminal Court as a fundamental pillar of the international criminal justice system.

Greece would also like to thank the Registrar of the Court, Mr. Peter Lewis, and express its appreciation for his dedication and all his hard work under particularly challenging circumstances for the Court.

Madame President,

Twenty years ago, the entry into force of the ICC as the first treaty-based, permanent, international criminal court of a universal character marked an important milestone in the fight against impunity for the most heinous crimes of concern to the international community as a whole. Today, against the background of dramatic changes in the international geopolitical landscape, and despite internal difficulties and serious external challenges, the Court, currently operating in four different continents, has proved its relevance. Actually, as the current juncture clearly demonstrates, it is more relevant and more necessary than ever.

Madame President,

This year has been marked by a remarkable increase in the Court's activities: five cases on trial, five cases at the victim reparations stage and three new investigations. Greece welcomes the significant progress in the judicial work of the Court as well as the prompt reaction and timely engagement of the Office of the Prosecutor in several situations. It also welcomes the efforts of the Court as a whole to enhance its effectiveness and efficiency, including by improving the working environment and workplace culture and promoting gender equality, equitable geographical representation, inclusion and multiculturalism.

Regarding the Review Process and the assessment of the Recommendations contained in the IER Report, Greece is of the view that this inherently complex exercise should continue by prioritizing the assessment and implementation of those recommendations which enjoy broader support and are susceptible to enhance the performance of the Court and strengthen the Rome Statute system. In this regard, we would like to reiterate the need to respect, throughout the whole process, the judicial and prosecutorial independence as well as to preserve the integrity of the Rome Statute.

Madame President,

Last March the ICC Prosecutor called on States Parties to provide, on a voluntary basis, additional financial and operational assistance to his Office, in order to address urgent needs regarding all situations under investigation or on trial. In response to this call, Greece made a voluntary contribution of 70.000€. We believe, however, that voluntary contributions should remain exceptional since adequate funding of the Court is an institutional issue and a duty of the States Parties and, as such, it requires institutional solutions. The Court should be allocated the necessary resources in order to be able to fulfil its mandate and cope with emergencies and unforeseen developments on the basis of its regular budget. This entails, inter alia, the timely payment by all States Parties of their assessed contributions. Given the particularly high level of arrears which endanger the financial security of the Court, Greece would like to express once again its great concern and reiterate its call on the relevant States to take the necessary measures to improve the current situation.

Finally, Greece calls on all States which have not yet done so to consider ratifying and adequately implementing internally the Rome Statute, in order to expand the jurisdictional reach of the Court and ensure that blatant core international crimes will not remain unpunished.

Thank you Madame President