



**STATEMENT BY NORTH MACEDONIA TO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY  
OF STATES PARTIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

**BY**

**H.E. AMBASSADOR BETI JACHEVA**

*Written submission for General Debate*

*5<sup>th</sup> December 2022*

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*Madam President, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,*

I would like to express the appreciation of the work done by the President of the Assembly, the President of the Court, the Prosecutor and the Deputy Prosecutors, as well as to the Registrar, and to assure them of full support on behalf of North Macedonia.

The Republic of North Macedonia fully aligns with ASP-21 statement delivered on behalf of the EU and below are the points that I would like to further highlight in my national capacity.

North Macedonia has always been a strong supporter of the ICC since its creation and remains firmly committed to its independence, integrity, and efficient functioning.

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of Rome Statute represents a right moment to recall that the International Criminal Court is one of the biggest achievements in the development of the international law and the protection of the human rights, but it also is one of the main pillars in the fight against impunity. Atrocities that we are still witnessing today, makes our joint determination to end impunity for the most serious crimes even stronger.

This year the Court received significant attention and focus, due to its significant workload, and particularly following the unjustifiable Russian aggression on Ukraine. We believe that the unprecedented number of referrals of the situation in Ukraine to the Prosecutor by 43 States Parties, demonstrates the genuine trust in the Court by its States Parties, as a central institution for ending impunity and for bringing accountability on global level.

We welcome the substantial work done so far regarding the ongoing Review of the International Criminal Court and the Rome Statute system. Review should contribute to the increased efficiency and effectiveness of the Courts' overall work, so it can better deliver on its core mandate. Promoting good governance and a safe, inclusive and enabling working culture should remain one of key goals of the Review Process. Ensuring equitable geographical distribution is also important element of this Process.

Success of the ICC depends heavily on cooperation with States and international organizations, and it is responsibility of the States Parties to cooperate, as it is envisaged in the Rome Statute. Therefore, we call on all States Parties to engage in voluntary cooperation in all priority areas.

North Macedonia welcomes that already 123 States are Parties to the Rome Statute, but believes that the most serious crimes could only be prevented by universal application of the Rome Statute and joins its efforts with the others in advocating the universal ratification of the Rome Statute.

In conclusion, let me reiterate the readiness of the Republic of North Macedonia to continue to provide political support, cooperate and actively participate in the activities of the International Criminal Court.

Thank you.