

**STATEMENT BY MR. SUKHBOLD SUKHEE, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND TREATY OF THE MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MONGOLIA AT THE 21<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF ASSEMBLY OF  
STATES PARTIES**

*The Hague, 5-10 December 2022*

Madame President,

Your excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I express my sincere gratitude to the Assembly and the Court for the hospitality and excellent preparation for the 21st Assembly of State Parties session.

My delegation commends the essential contributions made by the International Criminal Court at the global level to the promotion of the rule of law and human rights since the Rome Statute's entry into force and appreciates its commitment and efforts during the challenges we face collectively today. At a time when the rules-based international order is impending increased pressure, strengthening its criminal justice system has become even more vital.

Mongolia reiterates our strong support for the Court and its work as an independent and impartial judicial institution with universal jurisdiction to enforce accountability for the most serious crimes of international concern referred to in the Statute.

The world we live in today is complex, uncertain, and unpredictable. The rule-based international order is facing increased challenges. The fight against impunity today is more critical than ever. We believe in the rules-based international order, and strengthening the international criminal justice system is imperative.

Mongolia is firmly committed to upholding the principles and values preserved in the Rome Statute to contribute to its implementation and efforts to promote universality. In light of this, Mongolia, in cooperation with ICC, will host a regional forum in the Asia Pacific region in Ulaanbaatar in 2023.

Madame President,

Since the inception of the international criminal justice system, Mongolia has stood together with the international community in pursuit of accountability for the gravest international crimes. In this regard, together with Argentina, Belgium, Senegal, Slovenia, and the Netherlands, we are working towards adopting a new Multilateral Treaty for Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition for Domestic Prosecution of the Most Serious International Crimes. We encourage States Parties to support and join the draft convention and attend the Diplomatic Conference to be held in Slovenia in May 2023.

As a practical tool to enable States to comply with their international obligations and empower their national judiciaries, it is proposed to set up a modern procedural multilateral treaty on MLA and extradition, which would facilitate better practical cooperation between States investigating and prosecuting these crimes.

Mongolia remains firmly committed to continuing its active support and partnership with the Court to further the activities of the ICC and strengthen the system of international criminal justice.

I thank you.