



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**21st Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute  
of the International Criminal Court  
The Hague, 5–10 December 2022**

**Statement by  
Minister of Foreign Affairs Anniken Huitfeldt**

Madam President,

It is a great privilege to address this Assembly on behalf of Norway.

Norway is a steadfast and strong supporter of the ICC. We remain committed to defending the Court from any attempts to undermine it. We have supported, and will continue to support, the Court in all relevant forums, as we have done in our capacity as an elected member of the Security Council over the last two years.

Norway sees the ICC as a beacon of justice in the world, stepping in when national accountability mechanisms fail. A culture of impunity fuels conflict. Accountability, justice, and the protection of civilians are crucial to promote long-term international peace and security.

Over the last year, the Court has faced an exceptional situation with a record workload. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Court's officials and staff for tackling this situation with determination and professionalism.

Earlier this year, Norway joined more than 40 other countries in referring the situation in Ukraine to the Court. We are pleased that the ICC is investigating possible war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine.

Those who commit atrocities must know that their actions will never be forgotten – war crimes will be investigated, and individuals at all levels must be held accountable for their

actions. The ICC's mission remains as crucial as ever, both in the context of Ukraine and globally.

Madam President,

Norway seeks to promote a strong, effective and independent Court. The review process is of paramount importance in achieving this goal. Now that we are nearing the end of the assessment phase, we must stay the course and deliver on implementation.

And this must be done efficiently, with a focus on results. So far, we have only seen the beginning of a process. Genuine follow-up is vital.

Moving forward, Norway will continue to give priority to improving the governance of the Court. A healthy working culture, gender equality and integrity are essential to maintain productivity, efficient operations and the ICC's reputation. This is always the case, but it is especially important now that the Court is facing an unprecedented number of open investigations. Sound management is key to the Court's success in this situation.

Madam President,

In order to carry out its mission, the Court needs to be properly funded. As States Parties, we must live up to our responsibilities and ensure that the Court has the resources it needs to meet our increased demands. At the same time, the Court must ensure its own effective and efficient functioning.

Let me close by reiterating Norway's strong commitment to the ICC. We look forward to productive discussions on how to strengthen the Court and the Rome Statute system.

Thank you.