



**Statement by H.E. Dr. András Kocsis
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Embassy of Hungary to the Kingdom of the Netherlands
at the General Debate of the 15th Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome
Statute of the International Criminal Court**

Mr. President, Members of the Assembly, Distinguished Delegates.

It is my honor to address the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on behalf of the Government of Hungary.

We align ourselves with the statement of the European Union. At this point I wish to add a few points in national capacity.

Mr. President,

First of all my delegation would like to commend the Bureau and the Secretariat of the Assembly, the Court, the Committee on Budget and Finance, the facilitators and both Working Groups of the Bureau for their devoted work in the preparation of the 15th session of the Assembly. I would also like to express our appreciation to all other stakeholders of the Rome Statute, including the representatives of the civil society who have proven their commitment to the cause of the ICC. Your support is invaluable.

Hungary is a strong supporter of the International Criminal Court. We believe that the universality of the Rome Statute is the cornerstone of the effective international criminal justice system.

This is the very reason why Hungary regrets that some States Parties announced their withdrawal from the Rome Statute. We are convinced that the current ASP will provide an opportunity to engage in a meaningful, open and constructive dialogue with all States Parties, including those that have raised concerns. We support every effort that helps to further strengthen the Court and ensure that its vital mandate is fulfilled.

We also wish to underline the importance of cooperation of States Parties, as well as the need to execute ICC arrest warrants according to the Rome Statute. The occurrences of non-cooperation with the Court remain worrying. In this context, Hungary wishes to commend the focal points on non-cooperation for finalizing the Toolkit for the implementation of the informal dimension of the Assembly procedures relating to non-cooperation.

Mr. President,

We would also like to seize this opportunity to reiterate our proposal for the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the ICC. As a country that participated actively in the

elaboration of the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, Hungary is of the view that veto should never be cast against a proposal that aims to end and prevent further atrocity crimes by ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice.

In this regard, Hungary notes that the expenses incurred by the Court due to referrals by the Security Council continue to be borne exclusively by the States Parties of the ICC. According to a recent report, so far approximately €55 million paid by States Parties were allocated within the Court in relation to the referrals. In order to address this problem, Hungary calls for the relationship agreement concluded between the UN and the Court to be fully implemented.

Mr. President,

Hungary notes with concern that the situation in Libya continues to deteriorate and innocent civilians continue to bear the effects of the fighting between the warring factions struggling for control of Libyan territory. Notwithstanding the many difficulties facing the investigation of the Libya situation, including in particular security and resource challenges, we welcome that the Office of the Prosecutor will do all it can to expand investigations in 2017.

Hungary recognizes the importance of the al-Mahdi judgment that was the first case related to destruction of cultural sites in front of the ICC. We also call for accountability for the deliberate destruction of cultural and religious sites and artefacts by Da'esh and associated groups.

Mr President,

In conclusion I would like to once again reiterate our deepest commitment to the ICC and to the fight against impunity for the most serious international crimes. In the preamble of the Rome Statute, we indicated that we were determined to put an end to impunity and that we were resolved to guarantee lasting respect for and the enforcement of international justice. If we truly seek to promote lasting peace in this world, let us work together with the Court to make these commitments a reality.

I thank you all for your attention.