



**Statement by Mr. Zoltán Varga
Deputy Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations in New York
at the General Debate of the 16th 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 Hungary. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected Bureau and Presidency on their election and express our support to their work in the upcoming years. 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,

As the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute approaches, we can take stock of the work done in the field of fighting impunity by the Court, its States Parties and the international community. The Statute has stood the test of time, having created a Court that has contributed not only to holding accountable the perpetrators of the most serious crimes, but also to assisting the victims of such crimes.

We believe that the Court can only carry out its mandate successfully if all related actors cooperate with it. Cooperation can take many forms, including the obligatory cases set out by the Statute, the conclusion of cooperation agreements and financial contributions. In this context, Hungary is proud to announce that it has supported the Trust Fund for Victims with a contribution of 10.000 euros in 2017.

At the same time, we also find the rising number of cases of non-cooperation alarming. Complying with requests of cooperation, especially the execution of arrest warrants is a fundamental obligation of all States Parties.

Adequate financing is another cornerstone of effective functioning. We are aware of the fact that the workload of the Court has been increasing significantly in the past few years which has budgetary consequences. However, we consider it important that the ICC complies with existing mechanisms when planning the budget, and use available resources in an efficient and transparent way.

Mr. President,

In the field of fighting impunity, national authorities and courts have been recently facing new types of challenges. Having in mind that complementarity is one of the basic principles of the Rome Statute system, there are certain ways the Court can promote procedures before national

authorities, share its experiences and raise attention on certain legal and practical issues. We welcome efforts made by the ICC in this regard.

Almost 20 years after the Rome Conference, it is timely to ask how we could further adjust the Statute to current challenges. Several proposals for amendment have been discussed lately. At this juncture, we wish to request the support of all States Parties to the proposal of Belgium co-sponsored, among others, by Hungary aiming at extending the list of war crimes in Article 8 of the Statute.

As regards the crime of aggression, we are of the view that the resolution adopted in Kampala was a landmark decision. We believe that based on the Kampala compromise the ASP should reach a consensus decision on the activation of the crime of aggression during this session.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate once again our deepest commitment to the ICC, the integrity of the Rome Statute and to our common goal of fighting against impunity for the most serious international crimes.

I thank you all for your attention.