

Statement of the Republic of Korea

by **H.E. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Yeondoo JEONG**

at the 20th Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

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- Check against delivery

(Greeting)

Madame President,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and the Vice Presidents, the Bureau, the Working Groups, and the Secretariat of the Assembly for your excellent preparations for this 20th Session of the Assembly of States Parties, notwithstanding the challenges posed by COVID-19.

My delegation also commends the joint efforts of the Presidency, the Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor, and the Registry to help end impunity for perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. This year, despite the pandemic, the Court has continued to carry out its mission, and has made meaningful achievements in a number of cases and situations, such as its rulings in the Ntaganda and Ongwen cases.

I am confident that this session of the Assembly will be guided to a successful outcome under your exemplary leadership.

(Reform of the ICC)

Madame President,

My delegation welcomes the continued efforts of the States Parties, the Court, and other stakeholders to actively engage in assessing and implementing the recommendations of the Independent Expert Review, or IER, to strengthen the ICC and the Rome Statute system.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Review Mechanism for the very intensive work undertaken so far and for always observing the principle of transparency and inclusivity in the exercise of its mandate within this State-driven process. We hope that discussions on how to implement the IER recommendations will be accelerated through the Review Mechanism in the new year. My delegation would like to confirm its strong commitment to continued and full engagement for the implementation of the IER recommendations.

(Election of Deputy Prosecutors)

Madame President,

There have been significant systemic changes in the ICC leadership this past year. You, Madame President, were appointed as President of the Assembly at the nineteenth Session of the Assembly. Six new judges were sworn in in March, and Prosecutor Karim Khan took office in June. My delegation hopes that two highly qualified candidates with excellent moral character will be elected as Deputy Prosecutors during this Assembly to successfully complete the change of leadership in the Court. We are certain that the Court will be strengthened in its

efficiency and effectiveness under the new leadership. .

(Under-representation in Recruitment)

Madame President,

Equitable geographical distribution benefits the Court by ensuring a diversity of perspective which, internally, increases creativity in the work environment and, externally, remains crucial to address perception challenges and advance the universality of the Rome Statute.

Noting that the ICC needs to be geographically balanced perspective in the recruitment of ICC staff, the Republic of Korea recognizes the various actions taken by the Registry to address this issue, such as using the online application platform and hosting the Third Asia-Pacific Forum to introduce the ICC's activities to people in this region. However, we call upon the Court and Assembly to redouble their efforts to pay more attention to the issue of under-representation and to rectify the geographical imbalance at the earliest possible time.

(Promotion of Universality)

Madame President,

The Republic of Korea believes the wider participation of States in the Rome Statute will undoubtedly lead to stronger support for the Court by reinforcing the independent system of international criminal justice to fight impunity and deter the gravest crimes under international law.

In this regard, through the universality working group, the Republic of Korea, together with the Netherlands, has actively contributed to the efforts to promote, as far as possible, the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute by reaching out to non-States Parties and encouraging their ratification of the Rome Statute. The Republic of Korea will continue to strengthen these efforts, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

(Liquidity Shortfall)

Madame President,

The Republic of Korea takes note of the Budget and Finance Committee's repeated concerns with liquidity issues, one of the greatest challenges the Court is facing. In order for the Court to fulfil its important mandate under the Rome Statute, we encourage all States Parties to make timely payments of their assessed contributions.

(Closing Remarks)

Madame President,

This Assembly marks a defining moment for the ICC. With the full support for the Court by all States Parties, the ICC will be able to carry out its important mandate of ensuring justice for the victims of the most serious crimes. The Republic of Korea reaffirms its deep commitment to, and staunch support for, the activities of the ICC.

I would like to bring my remarks to a close by once again expressing my

sincere gratitude to you, Madame President, for the preparations for this Assembly. I look forward to meaningful and productive discussions on all these important matters.

Thank you.