



Twentieth Session of the Assembly of States Parties  
to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

S T A T E M E N T

*BY*

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**Madam President,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

Poland would like to begin by congratulating Mr. Karim Khan on his appointment as the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Poland wishes him every success and assures him of her steadfast support. Allow us also to express hope that the new deputy prosecutors, whom we shall elect in a few days, will prove to be valuable assets to the organization, too.

Our heartfelt thanks extend to all incumbent officials of the Court, headed by the President of the Court and the Registrar, as well as to the Presidency of the Assembly. We would like to take this opportunity to especially thank Mr. James Stewart, the outgoing Deputy Prosecutor, for his invaluable contribution to the development of the Court.

As in previous years, Poland would like to express her gratitude for the excellent work of the Secretariat team and Director Villacis.

The pandemic continues and this year's session is again being held under a special regime, which limits the ability of delegations to participate in the session in person. We hope this is the last time it happens.

In the meantime, we must deal with the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, especially those in the economic sphere, which have not yet been fully identified or recognized.

Despite these economic and financial uncertainties, at this session the States Parties are likely to decide on a significant increase in the Court's budget for next year, the first such boost in several years. This is related, among other things, to the Court's increasing workload, which of course should be appreciated by the States Parties. In reference to the Court's financial situation, we would like to underline the importance of timely contributions by States Parties as indispensable to financing the ICC's activities. As it does every year, Poland intends to make an early contribution, before the end of 2021, to help the ICC avoid a cash-flow crunch. We urge other States Parties to consider this possibility.

For the Court, 2022 will be another year of assessing and implementing the recommendations of the Independent Experts Review. As a member of the Review Mechanism – ad-country Focal Point – Poland actively participates in coordinating the assessment, serving as a platform for assessing recommendations, and monitoring further action and implementation of recommendations that have been positively assessed. The review itself is a very complex process requiring a great deal of dedication on the part of all stakeholders involved. In this context, Poland would like to commend the Court's engagement in assessing and implementing the recommendations. We are very pleased to observe that ICC officials share the States Parties' view on the need for continuous development of the Court's activities and constant improvement of judicial and prosecutorial performance.

There can never be too many reminders that the key to the Court's effective functioning is cooperation on the part of the States Parties. Without the help of states in implementing

arrest warrants, the Court cannot fulfill its mission and the whole idea of international criminal justice risks being discredited.

The great achievement of the Rome Statute system is its recognition of victims by enabling them to participate in court proceedings and providing redress for wrongs suffered. A central role in this regard is played by the Trust Fund for Victims, the principal financial resources of which come from voluntary contributions made mainly by states. Poland supports the Fund by making modest but regular payments commensurate with its financial capabilities every year.

Poland believes that the efforts of the States Parties, both financially and through ensuring cooperation, as well as by their involvement in necessary reforms of the Court's functioning, will help bring the victims of international crimes some longed-for justice, and to the international community – peace and security.