



Statement by H.E. Ambassador Csaba Körösi, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Hungary to the United Nations at the general debate of the 9th session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

Mr. President, Members of the Assembly,

First of all, my delegation would like to express its gratitude to the Bureau and the Secretariat of the Assembly, as well as the representatives of the Court for their devoted work in the preparation of the 9th session of the Assembly.

Looking back at the 12 months that passed since the last session of the Assembly we can certainly conclude that it has been a very successful year. The Court has made further progress in its proceedings and the Office of the Prosecutor has opened preliminary examinations into several new cases.

We welcome the **recent accessions to the Rome Statute** by Bangladesh, the Seychelles, Saint Lucia and the Republic of Moldova which brought the number of States Parties to 114 constituting another significant step toward the universality of the Rome Statute.

Another major development of the past year is the successful conclusion of the first **Review Conference of the Rome Statute held in Kampala, Uganda** this summer which substantially contributed to the strengthening the Rome Statute system. We believe it is no exaggeration to say that the Kampala Conference has been a most important milestone in the history of the Court and in the development of international criminal justice itself. The adoption of the definition of the crime of aggression and the conditions under which the Court can exercise its jurisdiction, as well as the adoption of an amendment to Article 8 on war crimes are major steps forward in the field of international criminal law. The stocktaking exercise on cooperation, complementarity, peace and justice, as well as victims and affected communities has significantly contributed to the identification of challenges the Court and the States Parties must address in the coming years. Therefore it is important that we implement the declaration and resolutions adopted on these questions.

Cooperation is one of the most important issues the States Parties must address as the effective functioning of the Court fundamentally depends on it. Recent examples of serious non-cooperation with the Court pose a great threat to the effectiveness of its proceedings and ultimately to international justice. Therefore we urge all States Parties to fulfill their cooperation obligations under the Rome Statute.

Turning now to the **2011 programme budget** of the Court, we believe that adequate resources are fundamental to effective functioning. However, we also share the view that the budget should be based on assessments that fully take into consideration the financial capabilities of States Parties.

At this point I would also like to draw attention to a new institution that is currently being established in Budapest, the **Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Mass Atrocities**. The Centre aims at narrowing substantively the existing gap between "early warning" and "swift action" by making available practical policy options for the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities to different stakeholders based on verified information, expert analysis and tested methodologies. It is meant to complement early warning and early action efforts of international entities, including United Nations agencies and regional organizations.

By way of conclusion we would like to reiterate our deep commitment to the fight against impunity for the most serious international crimes, to international criminal justice and to the most important international judicial institution designed to close the impunity gap that is the International Criminal Court. Thank you, Mr. President.