



**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
OF GEORGIA**

**Statement of the Minister of Justice of Georgia**

*H.E. Mr. Rati Bregadze*

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Madam President, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, I would like to congratulate all newly elected judges and wish best of their luck in implementing mandate of such a demanding role they will assume.

Georgia - aligning with the statement made on behalf of the European Union - maintains its firm belief in the critical role the International Criminal Court holds in the evolution and preservation of global criminal justice.

The expanding scope of the ICC's investigations across various regions of the world underscores the global imperative for accountability and necessitates universal ratification of the Rome Statute.

Its essential mandate plays a pivotal role in advancing victims' right to truth and promoting supremacy of justice, which is a foundation for lasting peace.

As a founding member of the ICC, Georgia is among its unwavering supporters. Georgia effectively cooperates with the Court to enhance its stance, performance and efficiency in different directions.

Fifteen years have passed since 2008 Russia-Georgia war that made Georgian civilians and military personnel victims of atrocities perpetrated against them.

Upon commencement of the investigation by the ICC Prosecutor in 2016, the Government of Georgia undertook intensive efforts to match the increasing needs of the investigation.

As a result of this cooperation, the ICC has yielded tangible results.

In particular, on 10 March 2022 the ICC Prosecutor lodged an application before the Pre-Trial Chamber for arrest warrants against three individuals - high officials of the de facto "*South Ossetian administration*" for the crimes of unlawful confinement, torture and inhuman treatment, hostage taking and unlawful transfer against ethnic Georgian civilians in the context of an occupation by the Russian Federation. On 30 June 2022, Pre-Trial Chamber delivered the afore-mentioned arrest warrants.

The investigation also uncovered the role of Major General in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and Deputy Commander of the Airborne Forces at the time of the events, who is believed to have intentionally contributed to the execution of some of these crimes and is now deceased.

The issuance of arrest warrants was followed by the conclusion of the investigation in the situation of Georgia on 16 December 2022 attesting that the Georgian side conducted military activities in full compliance with international law.

This confirms that the serious violations committed against the Georgian population in 2008 war are attributed to the specific individuals – representatives of the Russian Federation and the separatist regimes.

Today expectations are high in the Georgian people and the international society that the arrest warrants will be executed promptly and that victims of August 2008 war will get the justice they deserve.

In this respect, we actively collaborate with the ICC and hope for dynamic coordination among all State Parties, as well.

In conclusion, the Government of Georgia expresses its appreciation to the Court and reaffirms its willingness to continue cooperation with ICC to ensure justice worldwide.

I hereby seize this opportunity to thank Madame President and the whole ASP team for great job they have been doing during these recent years and wish successful implementation of all objectives to the new President of the ASP.