



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Assembly of States Parties
to the Rome Statute of
the International Criminal Court
Twenty-second Session
New York, 4-14 December 2023

GENERAL DEBATE

Statement

December 2023

Madame President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, Greece would like to state that it fully aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the Spanish Presidency on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Last July we celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute. By addressing the Assembly, Greece would like to seize this opportunity to express once again its steadfast support to the Court and renew its commitment to preserve the integrity of the Rome Statute and the independence and impartiality of the Court.

Twenty-five years after the adoption of the Rome Statute, the Court has evolved into a fundamental pillar of the international criminal justice system and it is engaged in several situations in four different continents. The expectations of the international community and, most importantly, of the victims of the crimes falling within its jurisdiction, are high. We are confident that the Court will live up to these expectations by continuing to exercise its mandate in accordance with its statutory framework and with the same resilience in all situations before it.

Madame President,

After 20 years of functioning, the Court, unfortunately, continues to face serious external challenges. Greece would like to express its grave concern for the arrest warrants issued against the Prosecutor and Judges of the Court as well as for the recent cybersecurity attack against the Court's systems. Any acts seeking to intimidate the officials of the Court, its staff and those cooperating with it as well as any attempts to interfere with the mandate of the Court and undermine its functioning and its operations are unacceptable. It is incumbent on all of us to defend the Court and assist it to ensure the protection of its officials and its staff, whether in its seat or in country offices, and the security of its systems. We also call on all States to provide adequate cooperation

to the Court and refrain from any actions which could hinder the fulfillment of its mandate.

Madame President,

Greece would like to welcome the recent ratification of the Rome Statute by Armenia which brings the number of States Parties to 124. Together with its partners in the European Union, Greece will continue to advocate for the universality of the Rome Statute system. It, therefore, renews its call to all States which have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Rome Statute and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC, followed by the adoption of the necessary implementing legislation in order to give effect to the principle of complementarity underpinning the Rome Statute system.

Furthermore, Greece would like to recall that the Review Conference which was held in 2010 in Kampala has decided to review the amendments on the crime of aggression seven years after the beginning of the Court's exercise of jurisdiction on 17 July 2018. Today, more than ever, it is of utmost importance that this review be thoroughly prepared ahead of July 2025.

Finally, Madame President, it is the duty of all of us to provide the Court with the resources necessary to fulfill its mandate. Greece is pleased to note that a major payment of arrears at the beginning of this year has improved the financial situation and the outlook for the liquidity of the Court. However, given the fact that a substantial amount of outstanding contributions remains, we would like to echo the words of the Committee on Budget and Finance that this improvement is only sustainable if States Parties pay their contributions in full and on time. In this respect, Greece would like to reiterate its call to the States Parties concerned to do their best to improve the current status of their contributions.

Thank you Madame President