



**Twenty-second Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the International
Criminal Court**

**Statement by
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Ambassador
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Madam President, colleagues,

I would like commend and express my gratitude for the excellent preparation of the Assembly and the important work conducted by the President of the Assembly, the team of the Bureau and the Secretariat. I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank you, Madam President, for your valuable contribution to the work of the International Criminal Court.

Latvia further extends congratulations and conveys its full confidence to the recently elected six judges.

Madam President,

Latvia aligns itself with the statement delivered behalf of the European Union and wishes to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute. The International Criminal Court has been functioning as a well-established esteemed institution promoting justice and the rule of law. Latvia strongly believes in the Court's authority and the legitimacy of its decisions ensuring international criminal justice.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has been challenging for the international rules-based order. The Court has taken steps towards ensuring that those who commit the gravest crimes of international law shall be brought before it. It has shown its ability by swiftly issuing arrest warrants for Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova for the heinous crimes committed in the territory of Ukraine. We encourage the Court to continue its efforts and bring the perpetrators to justice.

In the light of the aforementioned, international criminal justice can only be preserved with the cooperation of the States Parties. We invite all States Parties to assist the Prosecutor and his Office in the ongoing investigations and to surrender the alleged offenders to the Court. To preserve the judicial integrity of the Court and the Rome Statute system, States Parties must stay united and denounce any attempts that undermine the Court's crucial work in preserving international criminal justice.

The Court has Latvia's full unwavering support. Latvia has provided the Court with additional financial contributions and seconded an expert to assist the Office of the Prosecutor. It has also been of significant importance for Latvia to contribute to the Trust Fund for Victims and ensure that those suffering from mass atrocities are especially provided for. Latvia calls on all States to make their financial contributions and offer additional support to the Court in the fight against impunity.

Madam President,

While mass atrocity crimes are being committed around the globe as we speak, Latvia cannot stress enough that a discussion on the revision of the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression is essential to tackle the accountability gap we currently encounter. Therefore, the necessity for establishing new mechanisms that would complement and further strengthen the Rome Statute system are more needed than ever. Latvia tirelessly continues to advocate for the establishment of Special Tribunal for the punishment of the crime of aggression against Ukraine.

Latvia further invites all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Rome Statute and to consider ratifying the Kampala Amendments on the crime of aggression. We congratulate Armenia for joining the International Criminal Court in its goal to end impunity for the most serious crimes worldwide.

Madam President,

Latvia remains committed to continue working together with States Parties and the Court to ensure that the Rome Statute is universally accepted. It is our duty as States Parties to persist in the battle against impunity, and seek justice and accountability to both past and present victims.

I thank you.