



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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of the International Criminal Court
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**Statement by
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Madam President,

Let me start by thanking you for your important work as President for this Assembly the past three years.

Norway has been a steadfast and strong supporter of the ICC since its establishment. We look forward to welcoming Armenia as the 124th State Party to join the Statute. Norway will continue to work for universal ratification of the Rome Statute.

This summer we celebrated 25 years of the Statute. ICC's mandate remains as important as ever. Over the last years we have seen new and old conflicts igniting. With serious breaches of international law and terrible human suffering. We are equally concerned, no matter where atrocities happen.

Impunity increases the risk of conflict recurring. Ensuring accountability is how we create long-term peace. Victims must be reassured that justice will be served.

And those committing atrocities must know that they will be held accountable. Either in national jurisdictions, or at the ICC. As a court of last resort, the Court's work on complementarity is essential.

These last years, the Court has tackled a record workload. The Court is also facing increasing attacks, threats and security concerns. This is unacceptable. We will continue to defend the Court from any attempts to undermine it. And we thank the Court's officials and staff for their work under these circumstances.

Madam President,

The Court needs to be properly funded. As States parties, we must ensure that the Court has the resources to meet increased demands.

A robust regular budget enables the Court to plan and prioritize its work. This is crucial to protect the Court's and the Prosecutor's independence, to ensure that investigations and cases are not politicized. The changing nature of security threats against the Court, is another argument in favor of increasing the regular budget.

Norway seeks to promote a strong, effective and independent Court. Continued implementation of the review recommendations is important in this regard.

In light of the Court's exceptional workload and external pressure, improving governance of the Court is crucial. Improved working culture, gender equality and integrity are key aspects that Norway will continue to follow closely.

Madam President,

As Norway ends our term on the Bureau, we remain convinced of the responsibility States Parties have in gearing the ICC for success, through political, financial and practical support. This extends to our cooperation with the Court, in giving access to our territories, cooperating with investigations and supporting enforcement.

And it includes our work here at the Assembly. We look forward to productive discussions on how to advance the fight for global justice.

Thank you.