



REPUBLIC OF POLAND
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

750 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL. (212) 744-2506

Check against delivery

STATEMENT BY

MR. SŁAWOMIR MAJSZYK
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
LEGAL AND TREATY DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

22ND SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY
OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

NEW YORK, 6TH DECEMBER 2023

Madam President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

This year's Assembly began with the election of six new judges, to whom I extend sincere congratulations. I would also like to thank the judges whose term of office is now ending, especially President Piotr Hofmański, who skillfully and resolutely led the Court through a period of exceptional challenges and turbulence.

I also wish to say a fond farewell to Mr. Renan Villacis, who from the very outset of this institution has devotedly helped shape its destiny. Please accept our expressions of deepest gratitude.

Speaking for Poland as one of the newly elected members of the Bureau and vice-presidents of the Assembly, I assure you that we will work assiduously for the ICC throughout our term of office.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Poland aligns itself with the European Union's statement made on behalf of its Member States and would like to add some remarks in its national capacity.

Just a month has passed since we last discussed ICC issues here at the UN on the publication of the Court's annual report. What daunting new challenges that month has brought, both for the ICC and to the international community at large! The opening of a new chapter in the Middle East conflict has already taken an enormous and ever growing daily toll, and the role and responsibility of the Court towards these innocent victims cannot be overstated. It is no exaggeration to say that the international community looks on in anxiety and hope that the ICC will prove equal to the tasks ahead.

Madam President,

The proximity of the war across our eastern border makes it impossible to forget that Russian forces have been committing international crimes in Ukraine for almost two years, which proves that the world needs impartial international criminal justice system more than ever. We should do everything in our power to deliver one. With this imperative in mind, Poland supports the proposal to equate the crime of aggression with other international crimes and to allow the ICC to exercise its jurisdiction in this respect, without the special restrictions that currently apply.

Distinguished Delegates,

States Parties have justifiably high expectations for the Court, but for their part must ensure appropriate conditions for it to operate. For a start, this means that the ICC remains free from outside pressure, threats and attacks. Poland considers any such actions against the Court, its elected officials or its staff to be unacceptable and unreservedly condemns them. Secondly, the necessary funds must be available for the ICC to operate effectively – and I trust that in coming days we will negotiate the best possible budget for next year. Finally, it is essential that States work together with the Court, and Poland will always do its best to ensure such cooperation.

One issue crucial to the operation of the whole international justice system, which is beyond the direct influence of States Parties, is the universalization of the Rome Statute. Poland is therefore gratified by Armenia's accession to the Statute and appeals to all States not yet party to it to consider joining. Only by acting together can we ensure a strict and effective system of international justice.

I thank you.