

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



TANZANIA STATEMENT TO THE TWENTY SECOND ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE DELIVERED BY AMB. PROF. KENNEDY GARSTON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

07 DECEMBER 2023, NEW YORK

Madam President,

Excellences,

Distinguished delegates,

- 1.1 At the outset, as it is the first time my Delegation takes the floor, I would like to join other delegations on commending you Madam President for the excellent manner in which you have steered the business of this 22nd session of the Assembly.
- 1.2 I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the members of the Bureau, the Working Groups, and the Secretariat of the Assembly for all the excellent work in preparing for this Session.
- 1.3 Special thanks must also be offered to **Judge Piotr Hofmański**, for his distinguished service over many years as the President of the Court.

Likewise, I wish to congratulate the President-elect of the Assembly of States Parties Her Excellency **Ambassador Päivi Kaukoranta of Finland**, the two Vice Presidents,

Ambassador Michael Imran Kanu of Sierra Leone and Ambassador Margareta Kassangana of the Republic of Poland and the new Bureau. They can be assured of Tanzania's continued support and cooperation.

- 1.4 My delegation, also wish to commend the retiring six judges for their excellent work, and congratulate the newly six elected Judges. We wish them all success in the dispensation of their mandates.

[Twenty Fifth Anniversary and Universality of the Rome Statute]

Madam President,

- 1.5 2023 is a significant year for the Court in a number of ways. It marked the twenty fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute. Such a milestone certainly prompts a period of reflection and great actions.

- 1.6 We therefore welcome the report of the Bureau on the Plan of action for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute and wishes to acknowledge the great efforts done by the co-focal points, the Republic of Korea

and the Kingdom of The Netherlands, in promoting the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute.

1.7 Efforts towards the universality of the Rome Statute must continue. We thus wish to encourage Non-States Parties to consider becoming parties to the Rome Statute.

1.8 It is encouraging to welcome Armenia as the 124th State Party to the Rome Statute.

[Geographical Representation and Gender Parity]

Madam President

1.9 My delegation welcomes the efforts to ensure more balanced Geographical Representation and Gender parity in the recruitment of the staff of the Court.

1.10 We think ensuring equitable geographical distribution and gender balance will benefit the Court with diversity of perspective, increase creativity and generate more acceptability. This will ultimately enhance the universality of the Rome Statute.

1.11 We, however, wish to inform that the persistent recruitment of nationals of Non-States Parties to the detriment of unrepresented and underrepresented States Parties, does not only increase the perception challenges of the court but also defies its legitimacy, and may ruin all the good efforts underway by the Court.

[Review of the International Criminal Court and the Rome Statute system]

Madam President,

1.12 Tanzania welcomes the Report of the Review Mechanism on the overall progress of its work for the year 2023. We note with appreciations that during this period the Review Mechanism concluded the assessment of all the recommendations which it had allocated to itself in the Comprehensive Action Plan.

1.13 We call upon the implementation of many of the positively assessed recommendations which are not completed and, in some cases, has not even started.

1.14 We also look forward to the plenary discussions with States Parties and other stakeholders on the future of the Review Mechanism.

[Cooperation of States Parties]

Madam President,

1.15 My delegation wishes to remind all State Parties that the administration of international criminal justice cannot be fully attained without significant cooperation from all stakeholders. With this understanding, Tanzania wishes to commend the different cooperation efforts undertaken by the Court with the support of States Parties and other stakeholders in the year 2023.

1.16 These cooperation efforts have enhanced cooperation and Court's outreach. We wish to encourage the Court and States Parties to continue this important step in making Court's work and activities more visible and bring justice closer to the victims.

1.17 In this regard we would like to welcome with appreciation the continuation of the Court's efforts in advancing discussions with the African Union Commission, aiming at developing a closer communication between the two organisations.

Given the fact that the largest number of state parties to the Court are in Africa, for the time being, perhaps, time has come for a court to consider having its physical presence, for instance, by way of regional offices, in Africa.

1.18 Similarly, we express great appreciations to the 19 States Parties who made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Victims in 2023. Tanzania highly values the role of the Trust Fund for Victims in delivering restorative justice to victims and affected communities.

Cyber-attack and Special Fund for Security

Madam President,

1.19 In September 2023, the Court experienced a serious cyber security incident that shocked many of us. We applaud the various and serious efforts made by the Court with the support of the Host State (The Netherlands) to address this attack and avoid further compromise to data.

1.20 We equally laud the Court for the important briefings made to States Parties including the side event held today. The side event has given us a deeper understanding of the incident

and safety measures the Court is prepared to take to protect its data and maintaining trust with all its stakeholders.

1.21 We urge States Parties and other stakeholders to consider making voluntary contributions to the Special fund for Security to enable the Court to implement the redesign of the IT architecture and reinforce its physical security.

[Conclusion]

Madam President,

1.22 Since it ratified the Rome Statute in August 2002, Tanzania has remained a firm supporter of the Court, and has continued to cooperate with the Court through many ways.

1.23 Tanzania therefore wishes to call upon all States Parties to intensify their efforts to cooperate and promote universality as this would deny haven to the perpetrators of the world's most egregious crimes.

Thank you for your kind attention.'