

# INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

## TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

### GENERAL DEBATE

#### *Statement by the Federative Republic of Brazil*

*Ambassador Fernando Simas Magalhães*

Madam President,

I would like to commend you for your leadership in guiding the Assembly of States Parties. It has been a year of pressure and challenges for the International Criminal Court. Under your leadership, and that of Vice-Presidents Kano and Kasangana, we have achieved meaningful progress.

I would also like to congratulate the newly elected members of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Advisory Committee on Nomination of Judges, and the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims, particularly Judge Monica Sifuentes, from Brazil. I am confident they will make invaluable contributions to the work of the Court.

When this Court was established, many envisioned a world moving toward international peace and stability. The increase of violence across the globe has demonstrated how misguided that expectation was.

We are approaching the end of an especially demanding year for the Court. Conflicts around the world, characterized by the recurrent commission of crimes under the Rome Statute, have significantly increased the workload of the ICC. Attacks, threats, and the looming risk of sanctions against the Court and its officials have been testing its resilience.

These threats and attacks aimed at undermining the court's mandate and independence are unacceptable. Its officials have endured acts of intimidation against themselves and their families. Placing unilateral sanctions over the court is a clear attack on the international rule of law.

As a founding member of the Court, Brazil remains committed to supporting the mandate of the court and asserts that its officials and staff should carry out their duties free from any intimidation by anyone anywhere.

Payments made by Brazil to the court in 2024 reached the amount of about 8 million euros. My country is fully up to date with its financial obligations to the annual budget of the Court.

I must, however, underscore that it is imperative for the ICC to enhance its mechanisms for resource optimization, and expenditure control and effectiveness in the performance of its duties.

Brazil stands ready to cooperate with the ICC in the implementation of its mandate taking into consideration its domestic law and international obligations.

Regrettably, despite recent and very important movement by the court in key investigations, there is a continuing perception of double standards and selectivity lingering over the ICC. Those responsible for crimes under the Rome Statute must be treated equally, irrespective of their status or affiliations.

All victims deserve equal and non-discriminatory attention, respect and timely justice. Human lives hold the same value, regardless of their origin, class, race, or gender. The ICC must ensure equal standards in this regard.

Madam President,

The GRULAC region is one of the most committed regions to the ICC, with widespread membership among its states. Nevertheless, we remain chronically underrepresented.

Whether in the Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties or within the ASP itself, we have consistently advocated for geographical representation and gender balance.

It is urgent to reform the court's governance to make it more representative and inclusive. Brazil strongly expects that in 2025 we will be able to reform the geographical composition of the bureau in order to increase the representation of Latin America, Africa, and Asia-Pacific regions.

One of the topics we will also address during this Assembly is the Review Conference on the Kampala amendments, which define the crime of aggression under the Rome Statute.

It is worth emphasizing that only about one-third of the States Parties have ratified those amendments. The 2025 review exercise should primarily aim to understand the reasons for this low level of adherence, with a view to building bridges and narrowing the divide.

Recent developments in the global political landscape suggest that 2025 could be an even more challenging year for the Court.

In this context, it is crucial that the ICC and its organs operate in a balanced, independent, and impartial manner.

An effective and efficient International Criminal Court is what we, States Parties expect, moving towards the universalization of the Rome Statute.

In conclusion, Brazil warmly welcomes Armenia and Ukraine to the ICC.

Thank you.