

International Criminal Court – Twenty Third session of States Parties

The Hague (02 – 07 December 2024)

National Statement by Germany

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Madam President, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to address the Assembly of States Parties on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement to be made by the European Union. Please allow me also to address some points in our **national capacity**.

At the outset, Germany wishes to commend you, Madam President, for your leadership and the entire team for the excellent preparation of the ASP in these challenging times.

The preamble of the Rome Statute reminds us – and I quote – “that during this century millions of children, women and men have been victims of unimaginable atrocities that deeply shock the conscience of humanity” – and that such grave crimes threaten peace and security.

This statement in the preamble refers to the 20th century. But it sadly holds true for the 21st century as well.

The preamble does not end at deploring the status quo, however. It goes on to affirm the states’ **determination to put an end to impunity** for the perpetrators of these crimes.

Madam President,

a quarter of a century after its foundation, and more than 20 years after the ICC effectively came into operation, **our determination as States Parties** matters more than at probably any time before.

It matters, because we're witnessing increased pressure on the court. For us as its founders and States Parties, this is the time to stand in support of the Court. It is the time to stand for its independence and to stand behind its personnel. As States Parties we have agreed on the rules, principles and procedures in the Court's Statute. We have agreed on a permanent institution with the power to exercise its jurisdiction over persons for the most serious crimes of international concern. This was a great civilisational achievement. Germany's support for the Court remains firm.

Our determination matters, secondly, as 2025 will witness the mandated review of the Kampala-Amendments on the Crime of Aggression.

Kampala was a great achievement in that it established the definition of the crime of aggression and a jurisdictional regime, which was later activated by this Assembly. The time that we agreed upon to revisit this regime is coming up now.

Thank you, Madam President, and thank you, Belgium, as focal point, for working to ascertain the preferences of the States Parties as to the time and place of the mandated review conference. Germany looks forward to the formal agreement at this ASP to schedule the review conference, in accordance with these preferences, for July 2025 in New York. Let us

make 2025 count in the pursuit to end impunity for the crime of aggression.

And our determination matters, thirdly, with a view to endowing the Court with the financial means that it needs to fulfil its tasks. All over the world, States are experiencing a time of fiscal difficulty, and this of course needs to be taken into account. Yet at the same time, the Court's needs in this challenging time need to be met. Germany believes that the CBF proposal provides very valuable orientation. In particular, we are convinced that a certain budget increase is needed in to enable the Court to set up its cyber-security properly, so that it is able to withstand any future attacks.

Madam President, Germany has been a staunch supporter of the Court from its inception. We have been and continue to be a major contributor financially, both to the general budget and to the *Trust Fund for Victims* and its important work. We are promoting knowledge of international criminal law through the Nuremberg Principles Academy.

Let us strengthen this Court in every possible way at a time when it is so badly needed and when it so clearly needs our support.

Thank you.