

Madam President,

Excellencies,

I am honoured to address this twenty-third Assembly of States Parties, where we gather at a crucial time for our Court. The ICC faces new, fundamental external threats and difficult internal challenges. It is on us, as states parties, to define our goals for the future of the Court, to defend its mandate and to jointly overcome this crisis.

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Denmark aligns itself fully with the Statement delivered by the European Union. For us, the ICC remains a crucial actor in upholding international law and in the fight against impunity.

The Court is as important now as it has ever been. In a time where the ICC, its judges, and its staff continue to face unacceptable attacks and threats, we reiterate our strong support.

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Madam President,

Even in these difficult times, it is our hope that a dialogue-based approach and a well-managed and results-oriented Court will eventually lead to universal membership of the Court. In that regard, we warmly welcome Armenia and most recently Ukraine as new members in this Assembly. We encourage others to follow suit.

I also want to thank the Review Mechanism for its excellent work and guidance in the past years. Denmark calls on all court actors to further support the ongoing implementation process. We also thank civil society for their meaningful contributions in this regard. The implementation phase ought to continue in an efficient, inclusive, and transparent manner.

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The Rome Statute is based on the principle of complementarity. In this regard it is important to adopt national legislation based on the Rome Statute to ensure effective cooperation with the Court as well as the domestic prosecution of crimes under the jurisdiction of the Court.

The Danish government has recently presented to parliament a new draft chapter for the Danish criminal code, which will criminalize torture, war crimes, and crimes against humanity as specific crimes in Danish national legislation. The government has also proposed

to ratify the existing amendments to the Rome Statute, including the crime of aggression by the beginning of 2025.

In this context we look forward to the upcoming review of the Kampala amendments and call on all member states to actively engage with the preparations. Considering the overall situation the Court finds itself in, we believe that it is crucial to have a successful review conference in July 2025 in order to strengthen the ICC and send a signal of a unity and consensus.

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Madam President,

A few weeks from now, Denmark will join the UN Security Council. One of our priorities on the Council is to stand up for international law and to advance accountability for grave violations of international law. This includes addressing the two situations which the Security Council has already referred to the ICC, but also new atrocity crimes committed there and especially in the Darfur region.

The ICC is a judicial institution that acts in a political reality. Jointly, we will focus on the core issues and work to strengthen the Court. The fight against impunity is as crucial now, as ever.

Thank you.