



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**Assembly of States Parties**  
**to the Rome Statute of**  
**the International Criminal Court**  
Twenty-third Session  
The Hague, 2-7 December 2024

**GENERAL DEBATE**

**Statement**

**December 2024**

Madame President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Greece fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Hungarian Presidency on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

At the same time, Greece would like to seize this opportunity to address this Assembly in order to reaffirm its longstanding and steadfast support to the International Criminal Court.

Greece congratulates Judge Akane for her election as President of the Court as well as the six new Judges who assumed their duties last March and wishes them every success in their august task.

Madame President,

Undoubtedly, this past year has been yet another eventful year marked by an unprecedented demand for the work of the Court which is the world's only permanent international criminal tribunal of a universal character. As the report on the activities of the Court demonstrates, during the reporting period the Court has been actively engaged in 16 situations in four different continents and significant developments took place with regard to the judicial and investigative work of the Court. Greece expresses its satisfaction for the progress achieved and would like to commend the Court, its officials and its personnel for their dedication and resilience.

Greece welcomes also the important developments in reparation proceedings and the implementation of reparations orders by the Trust Fund for Victims. In this respect, Greece is pleased to announce that it is in the process of finalizing its first voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims.

Madame President,

Regrettably, growing recognition of the unique role that the Court can play in the quest for accountability for the most serious international crimes comes together with increasingly serious external challenges in the exercise of its duties. Greece notes with concern the worrisome trend of attacks and threats against the Court, its officials, its staff and those cooperating with it, including threats of coercive or restrictive measures, and strongly condemns any attempts to intimidate the Court, exert pressure on its officials and interfere with the exercise of its mandate as an independent and impartial judicial institution.

Madame President,

The Review Conference held in 2010 in Kampala mandated us to review the amendments relating to the crime of aggression seven years after the beginning of the Court's exercise of jurisdiction over this crime. Last year, this Assembly decided that the review be prepared ahead of July 2025. The importance of a thorough preparation

of this endeavor as well as of the active engagement of all States Parties cannot be overemphasized in the current juncture.

Madame President,

Together with its EU partners, Greece remains committed to the promotion of the Court's universal character. In this respect, it welcomes Ukraine in the family of States Parties to the Rome Statute and reiterates its call on all other States which have not yet done so to ratify or accede to it. Furthermore, given the challenges currently faced by the Court, it calls for the widest possible adherence to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court. Equally important is the adoption of relevant legislation enabling States Parties to comply with requests of cooperation by the Court in accordance with Part 9 of the Rome Statute, since non-compliance with relevant requests may prevent the Court from exercising its functions.

Madame President,

It goes without saying that the Court will not be able to live up to the growing expectations without being adequately resourced. It is, therefore, of crucial importance to endow the Court with the necessary resources in order to enable it to equally address all situations on its docket. We are confident that the Court will make optimal use of these resources and will continue to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its proceedings. At the same time, we note that, despite improvements, the level of arrears continues to be high and we reiterate our call to the States Parties concerned to do their utmost to contribute to the financial stability of the Court.

Thank you, Madame President