

**Statement by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**At the Twenty-third session of the Assembly of States Parties**  
**To the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court**  
**General Debate**

**The Hague, 2-7 December 2024**

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Madam President,**  
**Excellencies,**  
**Distinguished Delegates,**

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to your Excellency, as well as the Bureau and the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the Rome Statute for preparation of the twenty-third session and the related documents.

**Madam President,**

The International Criminal Court has been entrusted with the critical responsibility of ensuring that perpetrators of the most egregious crimes under international law do not operate with impunity. The objective sought in conferring such a mandate upon the Court emanates from the very idea that certain serious crimes considered as *delicta juris gentium*, deeply shock the conscience of humanity and thus require arrangements that while being complementary to national jurisdiction provide a framework to effectively prosecute such crimes.

Such an important responsibility instills strong expectations in the international community as a whole that the Court should reject politicization, double standards, and selectivity and that the Court, acting in accordance with its statute and international law, in particular, the fundamental principles of international law as enshrined in the UN Charter, should bring criminals to justice. This expectation, which is deeply rooted in the very aspiration sought in the establishment of the Court as reflected in the preamble of its statute, could never be more relevant than the present time when the horrific commission of crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide against the Palestinian people is deeply shocking the conscience of the world.

The situation in Palestine is dire due to the persistent brutal attacks of the Israeli regime that encompasses a broad range of serious crimes whose physical and mental elements, that is *actus reus* and *mens rea*, are manifest. These widespread and systematic attacks have killed more than forty two thousand Palestinians including women and children, inflicted gross bodily harm to more than ninety thousand people leaving many in critical health conditions or disabled for lifetime; the said regime continues to inflict severe conditions of life upon Palestinians while also forcibly displacing millions; it deliberately conducts attacks against the United Nations humanitarian centers, places of worship, hospitals and other medical centers and imposes starvation against Palestinians as a method of warfare. The situation in Palestine is catastrophic and unimaginable.

Concerning the arrest warrants issued recently, the commission of all crimes of international concern including war crimes, crimes against humanity and in particular genocide by the Israeli regime is beyond evident, an established fact which has not been fully addressed in the said warrants. Against this backdrop, the Court's measure is a required first step which, if fully implemented, may contribute to ending impunity for the crimes committed by the Israeli perpetrators, which is a demand of the conscience of humanity at this juncture.

It goes without saying that double standards and selectivity whether employed by some States or induced against the Court are no less compromising in the current regrettable failure to end the impunity of the said criminals. Claims of few on the importance of ending impunity and bringing perpetrators of international crimes to

justice while their governments actively aid and abet the Israeli regime in the perpetration of egregious crimes against the Palestinian people or otherwise acquiesce in such crimes, is a clear deplorable instance of double standards and selectivity. Such dishonest approaches adversely impact Palestinians who are victims of such crimes.

**Madam President,**

We reiterate that the independence and impartiality of the Court, its judges and staff, and the exercise of their functions free from undue influence or external threats are essential for the sound administration of justice and cultivating confidence and trust in the institution; in a similar vein, we maintain that attacks or threats against judges and staff of the Court, in particular, unlawful restrictive measures imposed against the prosecutor in some instances should be rejected along with the unlawful attempts and unilateral coercive measures aimed at obstructing or impeding the work of the Court regarding the commission of atrocious crimes against Palestinians.

The international community has a responsibility to establish justice and to prevent impunity. On that account, the Islamic Republic of Iran follows closely the work of the ICC. We also support the efforts of the international community to punish crimes of international concern, and to establish conditions under which justice would prevail.

**I thank you, Madam President.**