

**23<sup>rd</sup> ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE  
THE HAGUE, 2-7 DECEMBER 2024**

**Draft Statement of Italy**

Madame President,

I am honoured to address the Assembly of State Parties on behalf of the Italian Republic. Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union and would like to provide some additional remarks in a national capacity.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate the new President of the Assembly as well as the new President and the new Judges of the Court.

Madame President,

Italy has played an active role in supporting the work of the Court since the very beginning of its activities.

The ICC is a cornerstone of the international criminal justice framework, founded on the principles of complementarity, cooperation, and, especially, accountability.

The unprecedented attention on the Court comes with a great responsibility for all the components of the ICC system and it requires a real change of pace.

The Court, its bodies, the Assembly of State Parties and States Parties must improve their inter-institutional dialogue and they must act cohesively. Italy, which is part of the Bureau of the Court, will continue to actively work in this direction.

In recent years States Parties have supported the Court in its mandate, providing additional means and personnel and also approving significant increases of the budget.

The Court, for its part, should make the most efficient use of its resources, also bearing in mind that, due to budgetary constraints, it will not be possible to ensure a growing contribution to the ICC's budget.

Italy reiterates the importance that the Court carries on its mandate, as enshrined in the Rome Statute, safely and independently and without being subjected to attempts to undermine its integrity. We condemn threats or attacks directed at the Court or its personnel. Cooperation between States Parties and between States Parties and bodies of the ICC is of paramount importance in order to ensure the security of the Court.

The universalization of the Rome Statute remains essential in the fight against impunity for those responsible for the gravest crimes. Therefore, we are glad to welcome Armenia as the new State Party and we congratulate Ukraine for depositing its instrument of ratification of the Rome Statute. We look forward to welcoming Ukraine as a State Party from 1 January. We encourage other countries to accede to the Statute. We also invite State Parties to consider ratifying the Kampala amendments, a crucial step in order to narrow the "accountability gap" on the crime of aggression.

Italy supports the Court's emphasis on the rights and involvement of victims. In this regard, we have consistently supported the Trust Fund for Victims with regular voluntary contributions, and we have recently finalized a new contribution for 2025.

In closing, while taking into account the above-mentioned aspects, Italy would like to reaffirm the essential role played by the ICC in reinforcing and upholding the rule of law at the international level.

Thank you.