

[As delivered]



# JAPAN

**Statement**

by

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**At the Twenty-Third Session of the Assembly of States Parties to  
the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)**

**The Hague, 2 December 2024**

[As delivered]

Madam President,

It is an honor to address the Assembly of States Parties on behalf of the Government of Japan. First and foremost, I wish to express our profound appreciation to the ICC, its Principals and staff members for their tireless efforts in the vital fight against impunity. Japan warmly welcomes the appointment of Judge Tomoko Akane as President of the Court in March this year.

Promoting the rule of law is the cornerstone of Japan's foreign policy. In January this year, our Foreign Minister visited the ICC and reaffirmed Japan's steadfast commitment to the rule of law and our unwavering support for the Court. The ICC plays an indispensable role in strengthening the rule of law, thereby maintaining the peace and security of the international community.

Allow me to highlight the following three points that we, as a long-standing supporter of the Court, consider particularly important in our relationship with the ICC.

Madam President,

Firstly, as the ICC assumes an increasingly important role, it is imperative to respect the independence of the ICC as a judicial institution and to ensure its security. The Court, its personnel, and those cooperating with it must be safeguarded against any threats, attacks, or interference.

In this regard, Japan contributed approximately 160,000 euros to the Special Fund for Security this year and is considering an additional contribution to the Fund. We remain resolute in our support for measures that protect the Court and its staff.

Secondly, universality and enhanced credibility of the ICC are crucial for its future. We believe that the two are interrelated.

To advance the fight against impunity and make the Court more effective, it is of paramount importance for the Court to become truly universal, which entails increasing the number of State Parties to the Rome Statute. From this

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perspective, we sincerely welcome Ukraine's ratification, following that of Armenia, and eagerly anticipate the accession of other States.

We believe that approaches that are tailored to the specific circumstances of each region will be more effective in encouraging non-State Parties to ratify the Rome Statute. In this context, we support further discussions on establishing regional representations.

In pursuing universality, it is also vital to enhance the credibility of the Court. The Court must ensure that its procedures are fair and impartial. Enhanced dialogues between the States Parties and the Court, aimed at improving the Court's functionality, will contribute to greater universality.

Thirdly, as the largest contributor to the ICC's budget, Japan attaches great importance to financial prudence and efficiency in the management of the Court's resources. For the ICC to remain sustainable, its finances must also be sustainable.

In this respect, we would like to express our gratitude to the members of the Committee on Budget and Finance for their expert contribution to the Court's administrative and budgetary matters.

We take note of the issue of the extension of judges' terms, which represents a substantial portion of the Chambers' budget. In this regard, Japan appreciates the Chambers' efforts to expedite the proceedings in the cases of Yekatom-Ngaissona and Al Hassan. The States Parties must continue to consider effective means to address the issue of prolonged proceedings without undermining the independence of the Court and the Chambers.

Madam President,

Before concluding, I would like to mention Japan's contribution to supporting victims. We are very proud that our voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Victims have supported numerous survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in conflicts across Africa. As this support enters its tenth year, I am pleased to announce Japan's forthcoming contribution of 36,000 euros to the

Fund.

In New York, we are honored to have served with Switzerland as a focal point for the ICC at the Security Council, serving as a bridge between the Court and the Council.

Japan reaffirms its commitment to fighting against impunity and promoting the rule of law. We will continue to work with the ICC and other States Parties through practical collaborations. We remain committed to supporting the Court, its officials and those who cooperate with it in the years to come.