

**TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES  
PARTIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

**Madam President,**

**I am honoured to address the Assembly of States Parties on behalf of Latvia.**

**First, I would like to commend the dedicated service of the President of the Assembly, the President of the Court, the esteemed judges, and the Office of the Prosecutor. Latvia remains unwavering in its support for the International Criminal Court and the principles and values enshrined in the Rome Statute.**

**Second, as a current member of the Bureau, we are particularly honoured to collaborate with our fellow members in the preparatory work of the Assembly. We further extend our gratitude to the President of the Assembly and the Secretariat for their significant efforts in ensuring the excellent preparation of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Assembly.**

**Madam President,**

**Latvia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and wishes to add a few remarks in its national capacity.**

**Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine remains a grave threat to the international rules-based order. We commend the**

**Court for issuing of arrest warrants for high-ranking Russian officials allegedly responsible for serious crimes in this context. These actions underscore the commitment to uphold international law and ensure accountability for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity. We encourage the Court to persist in its efforts to bring all perpetrators to justice, reinforcing the principles of justice and human rights globally.**

**Latvia is committed to the Court's goal of ending impunity and hold accountable perpetrators, regardless of their official position, of war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, and crime of aggression.**

**However, this goal cannot be achieved without the full participation of States Parties, and adherence to their obligations. In this regard, it is important remind all States Parties of their duty to cooperate fully with the Court in its investigations and prosecutions.**

**Concerning cooperation, we express our gratitude to the Office of the Prosecutor, EU Member States, and the United States for their involvement in the Eurojust Joint Investigation Team addressing alleged core international crimes committed in Ukraine, as well as their contributions to the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression.**

**Additionally, we must support the establishment of a Special Tribunal for Ukraine and recognizes that the adoption of the Vienna-Riga statement is a step closer to bringing perpetrators of the crime of aggression to justice.**

**Collectively, we play a crucial role in the global fight against impunity. The Court must be able to work independently and impartially, free from outside interference. Latvia, therefore, deplores any instances of non-compliance and activities that hinder the Court's ability to fulfil its mandate.**

**Madam President,**

**Latvia has been and will remain a strong supporter of the International Criminal Court. As a State Party, we have actively contributed to the Court's work by providing additional financial contributions and seconding experts to assist the Office of the Prosecutor.**

**Latvia places significant importance on contributing to the Trust Fund for Victims, ensuring that those suffering from mass atrocities receive the necessary support. Therefore, we are in the process of approving another voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund. We call upon all States to make financial contributions and offer additional support to the Court in the fight against impunity.**

**Furthermore, we take this opportunity and invite all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Rome Statute and to ratify the Kampala Amendments on the crime of aggression. All states should use the opportunity of the 2025 Review Conference of the Kampala Amendments to expand the Court's mandate and send a clear message that the most serious crimes of international concern shall not go unpunished.**

**We join in congratulating Armenia on becoming the 124th State Party to the Rome Statute and Ukraine on depositing its instrument of ratification.**

**Finally, Madam President,**

**We are pleased to announce that on October 8 of this year, the government approved the signing of the Agreement between the Republic of Latvia and the International Criminal Court on the Enforcement of Sentences. This agreement underscores our commitment to international justice and its support for the Court's mandate.**

**We reaffirm our duty as States Parties to persist in the battle against impunity, seeking justice and accountability for victims, both past and present.**

**I thank you.**