



**STATEMENT BY NORTH MACEDONIA TO THE 23rd SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY
OF STATES PARTIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

BY

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Agenda item 7- General Debate

The Hague, 2-7 December 2024

Madame President, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

North Macedonia congratulates the new President of the Assembly, vice-president, as well as the new President of the Court. We wish them success and assure them of our strong support in implementing their mandates.

The Republic of North Macedonia reiterates its strong support to the International Criminal Court and remains firmly committed to its independence, integrity, and efficient functioning. The International Criminal Court is one of the biggest achievements in the development of the international law, and is a central institution for ending impunity and for bringing accountability on global level.

North Macedonia fully aligns with the intervention delivered by the European union. Below are the points that I would like to further highlight in my national capacity.

The court's integrity must be preserved from political interference and pressure. Any attack or threat against the Court, elected officials, personnel and those cooperating with the Court is unacceptable. It is also unacceptable that the Court has experienced cyber-attacks and other attempts at infiltration and intimidation.

Madame president,

North Macedonia welcomes the significant progress of work of the Court over the past years, particularly at a time of increased workload.

We commend the efforts of the Presidency, of the office of the Prosecutor and of the Registrar to work towards ensuring well-functional Court with introduction of new policies, measures and processes.

In this regard, we welcome progress made in relation to the ongoing Review of the International Criminal Court and the Rome Statute system, including on the implementation of a Tenure Policy. We will remain actively engaged with other States Parties and together with the Court in ensuring that the implementation continues.

Particular efforts need to be invested in building healthy work culture and promoting safe and inclusive space for the Court personnel. The importance of further pursuing Court's zero-tolerance policy towards harassment, discrimination, abuse of authority and other misconduct, and of addressing any allegations and concerns with transparency and fairness, cannot be stressed enough.

Successful fulfilling of the mandate of the International Criminal Court depends heavily on cooperation with States. Therefore, we call on all States Parties to comply with their obligations to cooperate fully with the Court, as envisaged in the Rome Statute.

North Macedonia welcomes the recent adoption of the Ljubljana-The Hague Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes and other International Crimes, as is proud to be among the signatories of this important international instrument which ensures more effective mutual legal assistance. We congratulate the core group for bringing the negotiations to a successful outcome.

North Macedonia warmly welcomes the two new states parties to the Rome Statute – Armenia and, from 1st of January 2025, Ukraine, as a visible contribution towards universality of Rome Statute.

Based on our conviction that the most serious crimes could only be prevented by universal application of the Rome Statute, we join the others in advocating the universal ratification of the Rome Statute.

Thank you.