



**23rd Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute
of the International Criminal Court
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**Statement by
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Madame President,

Let me start by welcoming Armenia as the 124th State Party to the Rome Statute. And congratulating Ukraine on ratification of the Statute, making it the 125th State Party from January 1st next year.

With these accessions, we are a few steps closer to universality. This is encouraging and necessary. There are too many ongoing conflicts where international law is not respected, with terrible human suffering as a consequence.

It is in everyone's interest that the world we live in is based on universally agreed rules. Violations of international law are unacceptable – always and everywhere. ICC plays a critical role in holding those responsible for the gravest crimes to account.

Madame President,



There is no doubt that the eyes of the world is on the Court. It is our responsibility as States Parties, to make sure that the Court has the tools to carry out its mandate.

This includes adopting a robust budget. We must ensure that our Court is fit for purpose. It cannot tackle an increasing and complex workload without sufficient resources, including funds to tackle increasing security needs.

A solid regular budget also ensures the Court's ability to operate independently. The perception of the Court's independence and impartiality may be affected if we allow it to become dependent on voluntary contributions.

Selective justice is harmful. We are failing the Court if we do not remain principled in our approach to its work and decisions.

We are deeply concerned by attacks on the Court and attempts to undermine it. We reiterate the UN General Assembly's condemnation of any threats, attacks or interference against the Court, its personnel or those cooperating with it. The clear, strong, and unified voices of States Parties are needed to defend the Court's ability to deliver justice to all victims of the most serious crimes across its global mandate.

During the past years, a lot of progress has been made to improve the functioning of the ICC based on the Independent Expert review. The review process should not be a one-off exercise; we must continuously work



together to strengthen the Court and the Rome Statute system. Norway will continue to follow closely efforts to improve the work environment at the Court.

Madame President,

The Court relies on the cooperation from States to fulfil its mandate. We urge all States to cooperate fully with the Court; To allow access, to share evidence and to execute arrest warrants. Norway is committed to do its part.

Let there be no doubt about Norway's unwavering support for the International Criminal Court. We look forward to continuing our common fight against impunity, during this Assembly and beyond.

Thank you.