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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



TANZANIA STATEMENT TO THE TWENTY THIRD SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE

02 - 07 DECEMBER 2024, THE HAGUE

Madame President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

- 1.1 At the outset, I would like to join other delegations to commend you, the two Vice-Presidents, the entire Bureau and its working groups, as well as the Secretariat, for the tireless efforts in ensuring that the Assembly continues to fulfil its role of providing management oversight to the Court.
- 1.2 My delegation also recognizes The Netherlands continued efforts as the Host Country, in providing supportive environment for efficient functioning of the Court. Its leadership in organizing the Ambassadors' Retreat with the Principals of the ICC, in October this year, is commendable. The Retreat was a crucial forum for fostering dialogue, collaboration, and shared understanding amongst the State Parties.
- 1.3 We further wish to applaud the newly elected Members of the Advisory Committee on Nominations of Judges, Members of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims and Members of the Committee on Budget and Finance, and particularly **Ms. Glory Geoffrey Sindilo** from Tanzania.
- 1.4 While wishing them success in dispensation of their mandates, I would like to reiterate Tanzania's continued support and cooperation on their functions.

[Preparations for the review of the amendments on the crime of aggression]

Madame President

- 1.5 Tanzania recognises consultation efforts undertaken by Belgium, the focal point on the preparations for the review of the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression.
- 1.6 However, to ensure inclusiveness, particularly given the limited number of States Parties that have ratified the Amendments, in the lead-up to

the review in July 2025, greater sensitisation and awareness -raising efforts are essential.

- 1.7 It is in this respect that my delegation lauds the Africa Legal Aid (AFLA) for and the Government of Switzerland, for organising the Retreat for the African States Parties Ministers responsible for ICC matters in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2024.
- 1.8 The retreat did not only provide a platform to voice the African perspective, but also signified a growing commitment among Africa States Parties to engage meaningfully with the ICC. It raised awareness and fostered a sense of ownership among African States Parties to advocate for a crime of aggression regime, that is both objective and authentic.
- 1.9 Tanzania is proud to have been represented and played an active role in the retreat, both from the Government and expert perspective. While Hon. Prof. Palamagamba John Kabudi, Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, chaired the Panel on Amending the Kampala Amendments; Prof. Chris Maina Peter, Professor of Law Emeritus, University of Dar es Salaam and Immediate Past Member of UN International Law Commission made a presentation on *The Crime of Aggression Provisions in the ICC Statute: Myths and Mischiefs*.
- 1.10 We look forward to continuing these rich discussions at the technical working group established by African States Parties, on amendment proposals. Nevertheless, the discussions need to be sustained and synergised with other related initiatives.
- 1.11 We believe the side event co-sponsored by Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Switzerland and AFLA entitled ***Review of the Kampala Amendments on the Crime of Aggression: Perspective of African States Parties***, that took place yesterday, played a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing the interaction.

[Activities of the Court, Trust Fund for Victims and Cooperation]

Madame President

1.12 My delegation welcomes the Report on the activities of the Court and wishes to acknowledge significant strides made in the global fight against impunity.

Completion of implementation of judicially ordered reparations programmes in the Katanga case for the first time, is a significant achievement to the Court and the States Parties.

1.13 In this regard, we wish to applaud the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) for its continued commitment to fulfilling its dual mandate of implementing court-ordered reparations and providing broader assistance programs to victims and their communities.

1.14 Further, my delegation would like to commend all the donors who make it possible for the Trust Fund to operate. We urge State Parties, international organizations and other entities to keep making voluntary contributions to enable the Fund to continue in the coming years.

Madame President,

1.15 While celebrating these achievements, we also recognize the security challenges facing the Court. In this respect, we wish to encourage the Court to remain steadfast in its work, despite the unprecedented threats. We call upon all States Parties to enhance their cooperation and support.

[Budget]

Madame President

1.16 Tanzania is committed to supporting a budget that enables the Court to effectively and efficiently deliver on its mandate.

1.17 However we are concerned about the Court's budgetary trajectory, which has seen a consistent increase over the past three years. These trends rise questions about the Court's financial sustainability, efficiency, and cost management.

1.18 Considering this year's outstanding contributions (which stands around €32.7 million) Tanzania will be able to support a budget that observes the **difficult** financial realities.

1.19 We, therefore, emphasize on the importance of the resources allocated to the Court to be appropriated in a manner that not only ensures proper utilization, but also promotes and maintains confidence of the Member States.

[Universality, Review Mechanism, Geographical Representation and Gender Balance]

Madame President,

1.20 Tanzania welcomes the Report of the Bureau on Equitable Geographical Representation and Gender Balance on Staff recruitment. We commend the facilitator for GRGB, the Republic of Uganda and the Court for the progress achieved towards creating more inclusive representation of both genders and nationalities in the Court.

1.21 Since imbalance endures despite the significant stride, we urge the Court to continue its efforts to narrow the gap between overrepresented, underrepresented and non-represented States Parties.

1.22 GRGB ensures diversity of perspectives, which internally, increases creativity in the working environment and, externally, remains crucial to addressing perception challenges and advancing universality of the Statute.

Madame President,

1.23 Tanzania acknowledges completion of the mandate of the Review Mechanism as a landmark success in the ongoing efforts to strengthen the Court. We commend the Mechanism for its dedicated work in assessing and facilitating implementation of the Independent Expert Review recommendations. The recommendations have provided a structured pathway to enhance the Court's efficiency and accountability, as well as broader Rome Statute Framework.

1.24 The dynamic leadership of the Co-Facilitators, Ambassador Paul van den IJssel (Netherlands) and Ambassador Michael Imran Kanu (Sierra Leone), significantly contributed to advancing critical dialogues that

were key in **reaching consensus on the elements of tenure policy and introduction of a moratorium** on the recruitment of staff from non-States Parties. These are among the notable achievements that we need to honour beyond formal documentation, by translating them into actionable reforms, that brings measurable results.

- 1.25 While the Mechanism's formal role concludes, the journey to strengthen ICC's fundamentals continues. Tanzania appeals to the Assembly to remain engaged in addressing implementation of the outstanding recommendations.

[Working culture and Independent Oversight Mechanism]

Madame President

- 1.26 We take note of the Annual report of the Head of the Independent Oversight Mechanism and welcomes the efforts in developing an Evaluation Policy for the Court. We believe, the policy will not only reinforce and solidify evaluation mandate of the Court, but also promote transparency, impartial and accountability.
- 1.27 We equally acknowledge efforts by the Court to uphold high standards of professionalism in its operations. A robust and professional working culture within the Court is fundamental to the realization of its mandate and maintenance of public trust.

Madame President,

- 1.28 In conclusion, The United Republic of Tanzania reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the work of the ICC and its broader mission to deliver justice to victims of international crimes. Let us continue to support this vital institution, ensuring that it remains a beacon of hope, and justice for victims worldwide.

I thank you madame President.