



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MOHAMED LAMIN TARAWALLEY ESQ.  
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE**

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

**Under the Agenda Item:  
Plenary of the "Review Mechanism"**

**World Forum, The Hague,  
The Netherlands  
4 December 2024**

(Please check against delivery)

**Madam President,  
Co-Chairs of the Review Mechanisms,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

1. As we reflect on the journey of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Rome Statute over the past two decades, we must acknowledge both the significant achievements and the challenges that have shaped this system of international justice. The ICC has played a pivotal role in advancing accountability for the most heinous crimes, contributing to the development of international criminal law, and providing a platform for victims to seek justice.
2. The very existence of the Court underscores the importance of the rule of law and the need for States to unite in the fight against impunity for atrocity crimes.
3. In 2018, this Assembly of States Parties (ASP) reflected on the ICC's shortcomings, which had become evident over time. These challenges called for our collective attention and action.

4. The launch of the review process in 2019, the subsequent work of the Independent Expert Review (IER), and the concrete recommendations made to the ASP and the Court, as well as the work of the Review Mechanism, must be seen as part of a dynamic and collective effort to strengthen the Court, enhance its impact, and ensure that the Rome Statute System remains fit for purpose in addressing the evolving challenges of international criminal justice.

5. At this plenary, Sierra Leone wishes to emphasize the importance of the outcomes produced by the Review Mechanism, which are critical for the continued strengthening of the Court and the Rome Statute System. Over the past years, the Review Mechanism has made significant progress, having assessed all but one of the Independent Experts' recommendations. Since its establishment in 2020, the Mechanism has fostered constructive dialogue on the IER recommendations and broader institutional reforms.

6. For this session, Sierra Leone acknowledges and welcomes the work of the Review Mechanism and its outcomes. Among these, the proposal to implement a **Tenure Policy** starting January 1, 2025, stands out as a vital step toward enhancing the Court's efficiency and institutional coherence.

7. Similarly, the **moratorium on the recruitment of staff from non-State Parties**, proposed by the African Group, and also to be effective from January 1, 2025, highlights the importance of aligning recruitment practices with the principle of equitable geographical representation of States Parties and the goal of universality. My delegation believes this measure will not only reinforce the Court's commitment to universality but also enhance its operational consistency.

**Excellencies, distinguished delegates,**

8. As the Assembly transitions oversight of the review process to the Bureau, Sierra Leone looks forward to continuing constructive engagement among States Parties to ensure the effective implementation of these outcomes. We also

emphasize the need for the Bureau to determine the appropriate forum for discussions on the Review Mechanism's work. In this regard, we propose the establishment of a dedicated facilitation focused on victim issues, which remain of paramount importance.

9. In **closing**, Sierra Leone commends the progress made on the review process and the results achieved thus far. We stress the importance of sustained collaboration to address the evolving needs of the Court as it continues its mission. Our delegation remains steadfast in its commitment to a shared vision of a robust, impartial institution dedicated to upholding justice, accountability, and the rule of law.
10. I will conclude by paying a well-deserved tribute to the co-chairs of the Review Mechanism, **Ambassador Paul van den IJssel** of the Netherlands and **Ambassador Michael Imran Kanu** of Sierra Leone, as well as the dedicated *ad country* focal points, **Bangladesh, Chile, and Poland** for their valuable contributions in completing their mandate, with efficiency, transparency and inclusivity.

I thank you.