



Statement on behalf of the Republic of Bulgaria
at the
Twenty-fourth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome
Statute of the International Criminal Court
(The Hague, 1-6 December 2025)

*To be delivered by Mr. Emil Kishmerov,
Chargé d'affaires of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Kingdom of The
Netherlands*

Madam President,
Distinguished members of the Court,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Bulgaria aligns itself with the Statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and would like to make the following comments in its national capacity.

I would like to begin by recognizing the hard efforts and the dedication of the President of this Assembly, Mrs. Päivi Kaukoranta, the President of the International Criminal Court, Judge Tomoko Akane, the Registrar, Mr. Osvaldo Zavala Giler, and all the officials and staff of the Court, for fulfilling the mandate of the ICC in these difficult circumstances. Under the current Presidency the Court has managed to remain steadfast in the face of continued challenges and to uphold international law.

The International Criminal Court is a cornerstone of the international criminal justice and its contribution to a lasting and sustainable peace must be preserved. The continuously increasing workload of the Court clearly demonstrates the relevance of the ICC in the fight against impunity.

Bulgaria remains a firm supporter of a balanced and impartial Court. In this regard, we would like to reiterate that the ICC should be able to carry its mandate independently and without intimidation or attempts to undermine its integrity. In this regard, we express our deep concern over recent cyber-attacks and sanctions against the Court and its officials. We oppose the instrumentalization of the ICC, as it endangers the credibility and effectiveness of the international legal system.

Madam President,

The foundational principle of complementarity remains key in guiding the Court's work. The International Criminal Court is intended to complement, not to replace, national criminal systems.

The cooperation of States Parties and the international community is vital for the effective fulfilment of the Court's mandate. Bulgaria attaches great importance to the adequate funding of the ICC and we call upon the States in arrears to settle their outstanding contributions.

We commend the work of the Trust Fund for victims in delivering reparative justice to victims and their families. We support the Court's focus on compensation and rehabilitation to victims.

Bulgaria notes the outcome of the Special Session on the review of the amendments on the crime of aggression that took place in July. The adoption of the resolution by consensus was a result of a continuous dialogue between the States Parties.

The universalization of the Rome Statute is essential for its strengthening and for the global fight against impunity. We welcome Ukraine as the most recent State Party as of 1 January 2025.

As the international rules-based order is facing a myriad of challenges, the International Criminal Court needs to remain a beacon of hope for justice. We stand behind it in carrying out its mandate to achieve accountability for the most serious international crimes.

I thank you!