

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES
PARTIES

GENERAL DEBATE

Statement by the Federative Republic of Brazil

Ambassador Fernando Simas Magalhães

Madam President,

Just over two months ago, we marked 25 years since Brazil signed the Rome Statute, which we ratified in June 2002, just before the International Criminal Court officially began its work.

Brazil joined the Rome Statute and the ICC because we believe in Justice and in International Law;

because we recognize the gravity of the crimes the Statute addresses, and the importance of a legal framework to prevent them, and to hold perpetrators accountable;

And because we believed, and continue to believe, that a permanent, multilateral and independent Court would deliver impartial and victim-centered justice.

Madam President,

Let me say with pride that Brazil is part of this endeavor. We renew today our full commitment to the Court. Yet, much remains to be done for the Court to fully achieve the mission for which it was created.

Brazil has consistently affirmed that the ICC must never allow selectivity nor politicization. Heinous crimes must be investigated regardless of the political profile or alliances of the perpetrators, or the ethnicity, religion, gender, or social status of the victims.

No one can be above the law.

No victim should be denied justice.

Any criticism of the Court, Madam President, must be constructive and with a view at improving its mandate. There should be no place for threats or attacks against the Court, its senior officials, or its staff.

Please allow me to remark that Brazil has always been a consistent and active voice in condemning unilateral sanctions, imposed outside the framework of international law. We could not have been more clear on expressing our strong repudiation of such a practice.

Madam President,

I cannot fail to highlight the importance of the ICC providing greater space within its ranks for representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Proportionally, the GRULAC is the regional group that has most acceded to the Rome Statute. Yet, we remain significantly underrepresented on the Court.

It's always Worth emphasizing that gender balance and geographical representation are principles that must always guide the administrative policies of the Court.

The Rome Statute currently gathers 125 States Parties from all continents, with diverse political, economic, and social realities. Brazil regrets that this number may suffer a slight decrease in 2026, and remains committed to encouraging more countries to join the ICC.

The Court must also always take into account the distinct realities of its States Parties. If we wish to advance the universality of the ICC, we cannot lose sight of the importance of the Court continually seeking economies and management efficiency, so that all States Parties can meet their budgetary obligations to the Court.

Madam President,

On behalf of the Brazilian government, I reaffirm our condemnation of any threats or attacks against the Court. No State should try to interfere in or undermine its work. The independence and impartiality of the Court must always be safeguarded.

To the senior officials directly affected and to all staff impacted indirectly by such threats and sanctions, I would like to convey our support and solidarity.

Distinguished officials,

The Court's mandate is proving increasingly vital at a time when peace remains elusive, and when genocide, the gravest of crimes, is unfolding.

Brazil renews and reaffirms its commitment to the Rome Statute and to safeguarding the institutional integrity of the Court.

This is the commitment that all nations dedicated to International Law and to Justice should uphold.

Madam President,

I could not conclude without expressing my appreciation for the efforts Your Excellency has undertaken, together with the Presidency and the Registry of the Court, to help us navigate this challenging period for the Court. I am convinced that, united, the States Parties will be able to safeguard the ICC, which will emerge from this turbulent phase even stronger.

Thank you.