



Embassy of the Czech Republic in The Hague

**24th Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the
International Criminal Court**

General Debate

Statement by

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The Hague, 1st December 2025

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Madam President,

The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement as delivered by Denmark on behalf of the European Union and its 26 Member States. In my national capacity, I would like to add a few remarks.

At the outset, the Czech Republic wishes to commend you, Madam President, for your leadership in these challenging times, as well as the ASP Secretariat and the entire team for the excellent preparation of this ASP.

The challenging times advocate for a strong commitment. As such, the Czech Republic endorses the Declaration of the ASP of this session, which reminds us of our responsibility to support the Court and rejects any attempts to undermine its independence. At the same time, it recognizes the need for a dialogue with non-States Parties in full respect for international law. The fight against impunity is a common goal.

The fact that the Court is a well-established independent and efficient judicial institution is best illustrated by its workload and by the wide participation of States in the Rome Statute system. In this regard, we welcome Ukraine as the most recent State Party as of 1 January this year.

Madam President,

This ASP session is the second one taking place this year. Let me briefly reflect on the outcome of the special session which took place this July in New York. In the respective resolution, which the ASP consensually adopted, it committed itself to the aim of strengthening the jurisdiction of the Court over the crime of aggression. We are ready to engage in good faith to overcome the continuous jurisdictional gap. Currently, in spite of the limited protection the Kampala amendments offer to those States Parties who ratified them, they continue to be the most widely ratified amendments. Let me welcome the acceptance or ratification of the said amendments as of this year by Denmark, Seychelles, and Timor-Leste.

Madam President,

The Rome Statute requires the elected officials to be persons of high moral character. Their outstanding professionalism in performing duties is a must. This is disconnected with any behavior of misconduct which needs to be, in all cases, properly investigated and dealt with by the competent decision-makers. We hope that the permanent mechanism to solve cases of misconduct of elected officials, as to be adopted by this ASP, will contribute to improvements in the workplace culture.

Madam President,

Last, but not least, I wish to recall the important work of the Trust Fund for Victims, which the Czech Republic is proud to financially support since 2011. We praise the excellent work of its Executive Director and her team, conducted both in the reparation and assistance mandates.

Thank you.