

**Twenty-fourth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the
International Criminal Court**

**General Debate
The Hague, 2 December 2025**

**National Statement of Finland
Delivered by Ms. Kaija Suvanto, Director-General of the Legal Service
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland**

Madam President, Excellencies,

Finland aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the European Union.

Allow me to **commend** the President of the Court, its elected officials and staff and the President of the Assembly for their invaluable work and resilience.

More than two decades ago, the States establishing the ICC affirmed that the most serious crimes of concern to the international community must not go unpunished. Today, as we witness the vast proliferation of armed conflicts around the world, the global fight against impunity is more important than ever. However, while the ICC is delivering on its mandate, it is facing unprecedented attacks, threats and coercive measures. We **welcome the focus of this general debate on ways to strengthen the Court.**

Madam President,

Finland **condemns** the sanctions imposed against the elected officials of the Court and those cooperating with it. **These measures must be retracted.**

Sanctions not only jeopardize all ongoing investigations but also increase the risks of impunity for the most serious international crimes, hinder access to justice for victims and erode the international rule of law.

We reiterate our full commitment to support the ICC and to preserve its integrity and **call on all States to respect the independence and impartiality of the Court.** The civil society actors collaborating with the Court must be protected.

We can all contribute towards a stronger ICC, for example, by demonstrating our political and diplomatic support, by cooperating with the Court, by working towards universality and by providing adequate resources for the Court. Finland will pay its assessed contribution for 2026 swiftly and we encourage all States to do so.

The **full realization of the rights of victims and survivors** is at the heart of the Rome Statute. Since 2004, Finland has supported the valuable work of the Trust Fund for Victims with more than 5 million euros. This year, we will provide a contribution of 400 000 euros to assist, among other things, the victims of sexual and gender-based violence in Central African Republic and to launch the landmark reparations programme for the victims in the *Ongwen* case. In addition to ensuring that more victims receive assistance and reparations, voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund strengthen the Court.

Madam President,

We commend the Court for **its firm commitment to continue its work** despite the unprecedented challenges. The recent historical conviction in the Darfur situation, the first in a situation referred to the ICC by the UN Security Council and reaffirming gender-based prosecution as a crime against humanity, clearly demonstrates the Court's dedication. Equally, the Court continues its work to deliver justice, for example, in the situations of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Libya and Myanmar.

Finland welcomes the consensus outcome of the Special Session on the **review of the amendments on the crime of aggression which defines the way forward** in strengthening the jurisdiction of the Court. We look forward to participating in the work of the new sub-group of the Working Group of Amendments.

Madam President,

Under the Rome Statute, States Parties are obliged to **cooperate** fully with the Court and to comply with requests for arrest and surrender. The ICC's ability to fulfil its mandate is dependent on States' cooperation, including in the execution of arrest warrants. We deplore any instances of non-compliance with the obligation to cooperate.

The universality of the Rome Statute remains a priority, with nearly two-thirds of all UN Member States already Parties to the Statute. We regret the recent announcements by some States Parties to withdraw from the Rome Statute and encourage them to reconsider and to engage with the Assembly.

We emphasize the importance of a **healthy and inclusive working culture**, as well as the Court's zero-tolerance policy towards harassment and other misconduct. We stress the importance of addressing and investigating any allegations in a fair and impartial manner.

In closing,

Finland welcomes further opportunities to discuss concrete measures to strengthen the Court. **You can always count on Finland's unwavering support.**

I thank you, Madam President.