



Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Embajada de Guatemala
en el Reino de los Países Bajos

STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY ANA CRISTINA RODRÍGUEZ PINEDA, AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

24th SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

December 2nd, 2025

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates:

For Guatemala, it is an honor to take part in this general debate and to express our recognition to the Presidency, the Judges, the Registrar and all the staff of the International Criminal Court for their leadership, especially in a context of growing tensions and external pressures on the multilateral system.

Guatemala wishes to reiterate its unwavering support for the independence of the Court and the integrity of its judicial procedures, particularly in the face of sanctions and external pressures that have affected Judges and elected officials. We also recognize the work of the Registrar and his team, who, with utmost professionalism, have ensured the continuity of judicial work, guaranteed the protection of victims and witnesses, and undertaken major efforts to modernize internal systems, strengthen digitalization and improve cybersecurity.

Madam President,

The Court must be resilient while remaining efficient. We are encouraged that, despite the attacks against the Chambers and the Office of the Prosecutor, the Court has not halted its work, but has sought to become more efficient and expeditious.

In this regard, it is worth highlighting the Yekatom and Ngaïssona case, in which the Chamber deliberated in only six months despite the complexity of the evidence and proceeded to unify the conviction and sentence in a single decision. Another emblematic proceeding is the case of Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, which represents the first conviction for gender persecution, the first conviction arising from the Darfur situation, and the first conviction resulting



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from a referral by the United Nations Security Council. We also continue to follow closely the case against former President Rodrigo Duterte, including the recent hearing before the Appeals Chamber that denied his provisional release, an indication that the Court continues to act with rigor, impartiality, and professionalism.

Even so, thousands of victims continue to await justice. We continue to witness the perpetration of international crimes, serious human rights violations, and violence against women and girls. **The Court represents hope for these individuals, and that hope is only sustainable if States Parties fulfill their obligations.**

In that sense, allow me, Madam President, to refer to three areas in which States Parties must strengthen their support for the Court.

First, regarding lack of cooperation and failed enforcements. Cooperation remains the cornerstone of the Court's functioning. Without the effective support of States in executing arrest warrants, protecting witnesses, or coordinating the surrender of apprehended individuals, the Court's ability to combat impunity is limited. Each time a State fails to arrest individuals suspected of perpetrating international crimes, a series of negative consequences ensue. Not only is the rule of law weakened, but it encourages more crimes, double standards are evidenced, and the legitimacy of the judicial system is undermined. Guatemala will continue strengthening its national mechanisms, it calls on all States Parties to fully uphold their commitments, and underscores the importance of enacting implementing legislation, acceding to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities, and adopting cooperation agreements, as appropriate.

Second, regarding the promotion of universality. States Parties now face a dual responsibility. On the one hand, we must continue promoting the universality of the Rome Statute to consolidate a global and uniform normative framework against impunity for the most serious crimes. We need more States committed to the principles and purposes adopted in Rome in 1998. On the other hand, we must do more to prevent withdrawals from the Rome Statute. Abandoning the International Criminal Court is a sovereign decision of States, but it does not grant permission to undermine the Rome Statute or commit serious crimes. This instrument is not a mere treaty; it constitutes a multilateral system of justice, of international assistance, and for the strengthening of national capacities. Guatemala is committed to universality, diversity, and multilingualism to achieve a more effective justice.



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Third, regarding good governance and accountability. We commend you, Madam President, and the States Parties for your work over the past year. Important measures have been taken to strengthen your oversight and management roles over the various organs. We remain concerned about the work place culture and the well-being of the Court's staff. To this end, it is essential to continue reinforcing internal accountability processes to ensure that the Court lives up to its zero-tolerance policy on discrimination, harassment, and abuse of authority, with transparency and impartiality.

Madam President,

Guatemala maintains a constant and enduring commitment to the International Criminal Court and to the defense of an international order based on law.

The Court can count on Guatemala to strengthen cooperation, protect judicial independence, and promote a system capable of responding firmly to the most serious crimes. We strongly condemn any form of threat, attack or pressure against the Court, its judges, and elected officials, or those who cooperate with it. In these challenging times, both our unity and our political and diplomatic support are more essential than ever.

Thank you very much.