



IRELAND

Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Ann Derwin
Ambassador of Ireland to the Kingdom of the Netherlands
at the
Twenty-fourth session of the Assembly of the States Parties
of the
International Criminal Court
1 – 6 December 2025

Madam President,

Ireland associates itself with the statement made by Denmark on behalf of the European Union.

Allow me to begin by thanking you, Madam President, as well as the officials of the ICC, for your tireless efforts on behalf of the Court this year. I can assure you that Ireland remains a staunch supporter of both your work and the wider Rome Statute system.

The world has never been more in need of the ICC's mandate to end impunity. Sadly, the ICC has also never faced greater external pressure due to the escalating level of threats and attacks directed against it.

We are deeply concerned by the sanctions imposed by the US against Court officials and those cooperating with it. We also condemn the recent cyber attacks against the ICC, and the criminal proceedings against its judges instituted by Russia.

All of us, as States Parties, are the custodian of the ICC. Attacks against the Court are attacks on the values that we collectively cherish – justice, accountability and the rule of law. It is therefore incumbent upon each and every one of us to support the Court in its time of need.

We therefore welcome the opportunity provided by this year's thematic debate to discuss measures to protect and strengthen the Court. I will now highlight what elements Ireland believes can contribute to this endeavour.

Madam President,

Political support for the Court is the bedrock on which all efforts to defend it must be built on. In that vein, Ireland was honoured to host a visit of President Akane in July of this year, during which we reaffirmed our steadfast commitment to the ICC.

Good faith cooperation by States Parties in the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for international crimes is another necessary element. Ireland notes with regret the recent findings of non-cooperation delivered by the Pre-Trial Chamber and urge all States Parties to renew their commitment to assisting the Court, in line with their obligations under the Rome Statute.

Sufficient financial resources are needed if the Court is to have the strength to overcome its present challenges. In particular, we note the need to replenish the Court's contingency fund. We welcome the recommendations of the Committee on Budget and Finance as a suitable basis to achieve this. We also commend the efforts the Court has made in moderating its proposed programme budget for next year.

A **healthy workplace environment** is essential, both for the wellbeing of staff and their ability to pursue justice on behalf of victims. It is important that we foster an institution where everyone is respected and no one is above the rules. While we welcome efforts in The Hague Working Group this year to improve internal accountability at the Court, it is clear that further improvements to the Court's working environment are required.

Finally, we must enhance the **resilience of the Court** if it is to have the strength to withstand external attacks. Reliable service providers are needed to continue to engage with the ICC in spite of coercive measures. We acknowledge the impressive efforts of Court officials, especially the Registrar, in improving business continuity.

Madam President,

Despite the formidable array of challenges faced, the ICC must be commended for continuing to progress its work. It has been a notable year for judicial developments. Amongst other achievements, we have seen the two trial

judgments, including the first in a situation referred by the UN Security Council as well as the first conviction for gender persecution. These milestones demonstrate the continued relevance of the ICC in delivering justice for victims.

Ireland also notes the progress that the Court has made in progressing its reparations mandate, with a record number of reparations programmes delivering restorative justice to affected individuals and communities. We hope that the first completion of a reparations programme in the *Katanga* case helps victims rebuild their lives with dignity.

We recognise the invaluable contribution of the Trust Fund for Victims in delivering Court awarded reparations. As a regular contributor to the Trust Fund, we urge States Parties to consider supporting its work, especially in light of its increasing need to meet the demands of victims.

Madam President,

This year we also welcomed Ukraine as a new State Party to the Rome Statute, highlighting the continuing significance of the Court in an increasingly fractured world. We deeply regret any indications of an intent to withdraw and strongly encourage States concerned to engage with partners, including during this week's Assembly.

Madam President,

As we contemplate the current challenges facing the Court, we should take heart from what we have achieved thus far. . If the drafters of the Rome Statute could overcome seemingly intractable obstacles to establish the first permanent international tribunal to try perpetrators of unimaginable crimes without fear or favour, then surely we too can unite to protect their legacy.

Thank you Madam President.