

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES
PARTIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Madam President,

It is an honour to address the Assembly of States Parties on behalf of Latvia.

At the outset, Latvia expresses its appreciation to the President of the Assembly, the President and judges of the International Criminal Court, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Court's personnel. We are thankful for the Court's tireless efforts in fulfilling its mandate under the Rome Statute even in these difficult times the Court is facing.

Madam President,

Latvia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU and wishes to add several remarks in its national capacity.

Latvia remains steadfast in its support for the independence and impartiality of the Court, its officials and all those who contribute to the fulfilment to its judicial mandate in line with the Rome Statute. We condemn all attacks, including cyberattacks, threats and disinformation aimed at undermining the rules-based international order. The ICC must be able to work without fear, and free from external pressure. The credibility of international justice depends on it.

Madam President,

Over a decade has passed since the beginning of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and almost four years since the full-scale invasion. The human toll continues to grow, and the severe and widespread violations of international law committed shake the very foundations of the global legal order. Accountability has never been more urgent. We encourage the Court to persist in its efforts to bring all perpetrators to justice.

In this context, accountability for the crime of aggression is a fundamental part in ensuring international peace and security. Latvia welcomes the *Special Session on the Review of the amendments on the Crime of Aggression* held in July of this year, and stresses that this discussion must not remain theoretical. The ICC still does not have jurisdiction over the crime of aggression. We must keep moving forward and harmonize the jurisdiction of the Court.

Latvia remains firmly committed to ending impunity for the gravest crimes of concern to the international community – war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. Yet this mission is not possible without the full and unconditional cooperation of all States Parties. We therefore call upon all States to comply fully with their obligations under the Rome Statute, including financial contributions, arrest and surrender obligations and cooperation in investigations and prosecutions.

Madam President,

The Court is a cornerstone of international justice. Its strength lies not only in its legal mandate, but in the solidarity of its States

Parties. In that regard, Latvia congratulates Ukraine on becoming the 125th State Party of the Rome Statute as of this year, and encourage Ukraine to ensure its swift implementation.

In hindsight, it is regrettable that some States have announced their withdrawal from the Rome Statute. Turning away from the Court does not serve justice, nor does it serve victims. We therefore encourage all States to reconsider such intentions and to remain within the Rome Statute system.

Finally, Madam President,

As States Parties, we bear a collective responsibility to defend the Rome Statute and protect the values on which the Court was founded. Latvia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the fight against impunity and resolve to safeguard the integrity of the international rule of law.

I thank you.