



Statement of the Republic of Malta

Delivered by H.E. Jeffrey Curmi

Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to the Kingdom of the Netherlands
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Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

At the outset, allow me to extend words of thanks to you, Madam President, the Bureau, the Secretariat, as well as all the facilitators who have contributed to make this week's Session possible.

During the past year, the resilience of the ICC has once again been tested. We have witnessed the imposition of sanctions on the Court's elected officials, including the Prosecutor, Deputy Prosecutors, Judges, and also on those who cooperate with the Court. These measures, taken in direct response to the official discharge of their mandates in full compliance with the Rome Statute, have impacted their ability to function in their everyday lives and have sought to undermine the very foundations of international justice. While the challenges the Court is facing continue to mount, reflecting also the growing demands being placed upon it, so too are the deplorable atrocities being committed across the globe.

Despite the challenges which it is facing, the ICC has continued to fulfil its mandate without interruption; and in this regard, allow me to express our sincere appreciation to the Court officials and personnel for their perseverance. The Court's determination and commitment to deliver justice to victims of the most serious crimes remains unwavering. As is our support. Allow me, Madam President, to take this opportunity to renew our commitment and to reaffirm our adherence to the values and principles of the Court.

Madam President,



Malta stands firmly with the Court. As a dedicated State Party, Malta has consistently supported the ICC's mandate, and we will continue to do so. We reaffirm our commitment to upholding the rule of law, promoting accountability, and ensuring justice for victims. At this point, allow me to refer to the Trust Fund for Victims. Fully cognisant of the enduring importance of a victim-centred approach to justice, this year, for the 5th consecutive year Malta provided a voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims. This is not merely a financial gesture, but a reaffirmation of our principled commitment to stand with survivors. It also demonstrates our support to the Court's efforts to deliver reparative justice and to restore hope and dignity to those who have suffered.

Yet, we are aware that the challenges which the Court is facing today require a collective response. As States Parties, we must take decisive steps to strengthen the Rome Statute system, and stand firm in defending the Court's independence, impartiality, and integrity against pressure. Our collective commitment to the principles of the Rome Statute must remain unshaken. It is also our collective responsibility to broaden the reach of the Rome Statute and make it truly universal and inclusive. At the same time, we must continue to work diligently to align the Court's jurisdiction across all four core crimes. These commitments remain the very foundations upon which the international criminal justice system was built.

Madam President,

We cannot overlook the vital role of civil society, and we should recognise their tireless advocacy and engagement. We are aware that civil society itself is facing growing challenges, from resource constraints to the imposition of sanctions. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that their voices continue to be heard and their contributions valued, as they are our indispensable partners in the fight against impunity.

Excellencies/colleagues, we know that the challenges before us are great, but so is our determination. The ICC remains an essential pillar of international criminal justice, and it must remain so. As States Parties, we must safeguard the Court so that it remains strong, credible, and capable of delivering its mandate, to ensure that justice is delivered to those who need it the most.

Thank you.



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