

STATEMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

BY

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**AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH (24TH) SESSION OF THE
ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME
STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL
COURT**

THE HAGUE 1ST - 6TH DEC, 2025

Madam President,

It is a privilege to address this Twenty-Fourth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). On behalf of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, I express our profound appreciation to the Court and to the Assembly for their tireless efforts in ensuring a successful and meaningful session. I also bring warm greetings from the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

2. Nigeria's longstanding commitment to the Rome Statute system remains unwavering. Together with the 125 other States Parties, we remain united in our collective resolve to hold accountable those responsible for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

Madam President,

3. The Federal Government of Nigeria reaffirms its readiness to continue working with the ICC in the fulfilment of its mandate. Our cooperation is firmly rooted in the principles of international law and the sovereign equality of States, and we remain committed to ensuring that such cooperation always reflects respect for Nigeria's sovereignty and constitutional framework.

4. Permit me to highlight recent national efforts aimed at strengthening our commitment to international humanitarian and criminal justice norms. In May of this year, Nigeria convened a High-Level International Humanitarian Law Dialogue, bringing together relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies, civil society organizations, and academia. This Dialogue was part of

ongoing activities to reaffirm Nigeria's commitment to effective IHL implementation.

5. Nigeria continues to prioritise the protection of civilians and accountability during military operations. Our Armed Forces conduct operations in line with international humanitarian law and maintain mechanisms for independent and transparent investigations into alleged violations. The Six-Month Demobilization, Deradicalization and Reintegration (DDR) Programme, our home-grown initiative, has successfully reintegrated more than 6,000 former combatants into society, contributing significantly to national stability and peacebuilding.

6. Nigeria has also taken important legislative steps, including the domestication of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (the Kampala Convention), which now awaits Presidential assent. The processes for the domestication of the Rome Statute and Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions are ongoing. Furthermore, Nigeria has joined like-minded States in the Global Initiative to Garner Political Support for International Humanitarian Law and recently endorsed the Political Declaration on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas.

7. Consistent with the ICC's principle of complementarity, Nigeria continues to demonstrate the capability and willingness to investigate and prosecute serious crimes committed within its jurisdiction. In this regard, all arms of our government are collaboratively working to strengthen domestic mechanisms to address grave crimes and reinforce the rule of law. Nigeria therefore looks forward to formal conclusion of its Situation by the ICC. We will continue to cooperate with the Office of

Prosecutor to address all observations on our Situation, in line with our international and national obligations.

Madam President,

8. The ICC's mandate—to act where States are unable or unwilling to prosecute the gravest crimes—has become even more vital in the face of the alarming increase in armed conflicts worldwide. The disregard for international humanitarian law, deliberate targeting of civilians, and destruction of civilian infrastructure illustrates the urgent need to bolster global accountability efforts. Nigeria particularly finds concerning, the dehumanization of wars and armed conflicts against even persons not directly involved in these conflicts.

9. Emerging technologies, including lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), pose increasingly complex challenges to the protection of civilians and the attribution of responsibility. As autonomous systems evolve from defensive tools to potentially offensive weapons, questions of legal responsibility and ethical accountability become more pressing. Nigeria therefore supports ongoing international processes—within the United Nations and other multilateral fora—to establish norms, rules, and safeguards that ensure technology serves humanity and not the reverse. We also reiterate our call for the universalization and full implementation of all international humanitarian law instruments.

10. The Assembly must remain attentive to the unique challenges faced by states confronting terrorism, insurgency, conflict and mass displacement. Nigeria reiterates that global accountability architecture should remain sensitive to these realities, whilst upholding the highest standard of justice. Effective cooperation, including victim support, timely sharing of

information, technical assistance and support for national justice systems remain essential.

11. Nigeria fully supports efforts aimed at strengthening the ICC's independence, efficiency, and credibility. We encourage adequate resourcing of the Court and continued implementation of the Independent Expert Review recommendations. We also emphasize the need for continued dialogue between the ICC and the African Continent. Africa's peculiar experiences and challenges must be integrated into ongoing discussions on cooperation, complementarity and reform.

Madam President,

12. Nigeria strongly condemns the recent cyberattacks on the ICC's digital infrastructure. These attacks are clearly deliberate attempts to undermine the Court's independence and mandate and erode global confidence in international justice. We urge the Court to deepen collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including experts in emerging technologies and artificial intelligence, to bolster resilience against future threats and safeguard the integrity of the Court's operations.

13. Similarly, Nigeria is concerned about the targeting of officials of the ICC and rejects any action that can undermine the autonomy, independence and integrity of the Court. We therefore urge restraint and dialogue.

14. My delegation extends its warm congratulations to the newly elected member of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims. The Fund remains a vital pillar of the Rome Statute system, giving tangible expression to the promise of justice for victims. We trust that the Board will continue to discharge its responsibilities with diligence, transparency and compassion.

Nigeria calls for increased voluntary contributions to support reparations and assistance programmes that promote reintegration and healing.

Madam President, Distinguished Delegates,

15. In conclusion, Nigeria stands firmly with fellow States Parties in the collective effort to end impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. We reaffirm our full support for the work of the Court and encourage States that have not yet acceded to the Rome Statute to do so in the interest of global peace, justice, and human dignity.

16. I thank you all for your kind attention.