

Twenty-fourth Session of the Assembly of States Parties
to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

S T A T E M E N T

BY

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Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Poland aligns itself with the statement presented on behalf of the EU and its member states. We also wish to add our own national comments.

Allow me to begin by expressing, on behalf of the Republic of Poland, our deep appreciation to the judges, prosecutors, and staff of the International Criminal Court for their tireless and dedicated work throughout the past year. Your commitment to justice, often carried out under immense pressure and in complex operational conditions, embodies the principles that inspired the Rome Statute. Poland pays tribute to your service and acknowledges the heavy burdens you shoulder in pursuit of accountability and the rule of law.

I would also like to thank the Presidency of the Assembly of States Parties, the members of the Bureau, and the Secretariat for their hard work during this difficult period.

Poland's engagement in strengthening the international criminal justice system is not just a matter of policy – it is rooted in our historic experience. As a nation that endured aggression, mass atrocities, and systematic violations of human dignity, we understand the value of a permanent, independent, and effective tribunal such as the ICC. Our past compels us to seek a future in which perpetrators of the gravest crimes are held to account, no matter who committed them or where.

For this reason, Poland strongly condemns all outside pressure, threats, and attacks directed at the ICC and its elected officials. Cyberattacks, politically motivated sanctions, intimidation, and other attempts to undermine the Court's

independence are unacceptable. They strike not only at the institution, but also at our global commitment to the rule of law. Poland stands firmly with the ICC and pledges to sustain its ability to carry out its mandate free from interference, in the full autonomy and dignity befitting an international court of law.

At the same time, Poland is closely following the ongoing examination of alleged sexual harassment and misconduct involving the Prosecutor. We expect – and indeed demand – thorough clarification of the matter and appropriate and proportionate action on the findings of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Integrity and public trust are fundamental to the Court’s legitimacy. The Office of the Prosecutor must be above suspicion to continue its essential work.

And that work is vast. In Ukraine, Palestine, Bangladesh/Myanmar, Sudan, and many other countries, the Office of the Prosecutor has assumed enormous responsibilities. Poland especially wishes to highlight investigations aimed at ensuring accountability for crimes committed in Ukraine – a country with whom we share a border. The suffering inflicted on the Ukrainian people, and the grave crimes documented there, underscore the need for a strong, effective ICC.

Madam President,

Clearly, the Court cannot fulfil its mandate without cooperation. I therefore call on all States to fully support the ICC in accordance with their obligations under the Rome Statute. The international criminal justice system is only as strong as the resolve of States to uphold it.

Likewise, Poland reiterates its steadfast support for the universality of the Rome Statute. A truly global court requires truly global membership. We welcome Ukraine’s decision to join the Statute – an act of courage and conviction, particularly when it faces aggression on its own territory. At the same time, we

regret the decisions of certain States to withdraw from the Statute, as every departure weakens the shared promise not to tolerate impunity for atrocity crimes. We urge all States to uphold rather than undermine this essential pillar of the international legal order.

With this in mind, Poland welcomes the results of the July special session in New York to review the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression. Although the session did not produce an immediate breakthrough, it demonstrated the unity of the States Parties and gives hope that the issue of harmonizing jurisdiction over the crime of aggression will be taken up again in four years' time and ultimately resolved.

Finally, let me address the vital question of financing. In an era of growing caseloads, increasing global tensions, and emerging threats – including the chilling effect of sanctions targeting institutions of international justice – it is essential for the ICC to have a budget that enables it to function effectively. Underfunding compromises the Court's ability to deliver justice and the credibility of our own collective commitment. Poland hopes the Assembly will secure sufficient funding for 2026 and stands ready to contribute. It has become common practice for some countries, including Poland, to pay their contributions ahead of schedule, and we will do so again this year.

Excellencies,

The Rome Statute system rests on our shared belief that justice is not optional but a necessity – both to safeguard peace and fulfil our moral obligation to victims everywhere. Poland reaffirms its unwavering support for ICC and its mission. Let us work together to strengthen the Court, guard its independence, and ensure the promise of accountability remains a reality for all.