

**Statement of the Chair of the Board of Directors at the 24th
session of the Assembly of States Parties
1 December 2025**

Dear Madame President

Your Excellencies Court Officials and Delegates,

Members of civil society organisations

**Members of communities affected by the crimes under
jurisdiction of the Court**

It is an honour to address you.

We are gathered at a critical moment when, on the one hand children, women and men continue to be victims of massive and unimaginable atrocities, and on the other, the Court and the entire foundations of international criminal justice are facing unprecedented attacks and existential threats.

At this time, we must stand together and remember why we are all here. The ICC was created to bring justice and to redress the harm

that the most serious crimes cause on individuals, on communities and on whole nations.

In this endeavour, the reparative work of the ICC through the Trust Fund for Victims ensures justice to victims. The judicial proceedings of the Court have advanced and they expanded and thus the work of the Trust Fund needs to be understood by our critics and our supporters alike – as being at the heart of the aspirations of the Rome Statute.

For too long, efforts of redress to victims have been treated as an ‘add on’ to accountability, almost as an afterthought in our words and deeds about the ICC internationally and domestically.

Programmes for the benefit of victims have received the much-appreciated voluntary financial support from numerous States Parties. But still the number of contributing countries and the volume of this support is too little to do justice to the lofty ambitions of those who have adhered to the aspirations of the Rome Statute.

Your governments established this Court because nations learned the hard way that a lack of accountability threatens peace and they security, and that lack of redress and reparation repeat cycles of violence.

The Board of Directors has reported to the Assembly what redress has meant in practice, nearly 78,000 individuals have benefited in the past five years.

Every figure in this report represents a person, a life, a former child soldier seeking to rebuild a broken childhood, a survivor of sexual violence reclaiming their sense of safety and dignity, a community struggling to preserve its culture and way of living after devastation, and many others. Nearly three quarters of participants in our programmes presented in our report refer to women and girls.

These women are not merely beneficiaries; they are survivors, caregivers, and agents of resilience, holding families and communities together despite immense trauma.

The Rome Statute system exists for them.

So, when the Court is supported, and when victims experience reparative justice, you are enabling not only the upholding of norms but also healing. You are enabling hope that devastation may have an end.

Together we are building a narrative of hope, and our common future.

In approving the budget necessary for the Court to do its work, in protecting the Court from threats, and in providing necessary contributions to the Trust Fund for Victims, you are declaring to your own nations, and to the world, that norms and people matter, that security matters and that peace matters.

The Court and the TFV have done their work. With successful convictions of the most responsible perpetrators of mass crimes, the continuous delivery of reparations and programmes of assistance, with economic prudence and an unstoppable determination for business continuity in the face of serious threats.

This work resulted, as is visible in the Report of the TFV presented to the assembly, that in 2024 with your support we reached the highest level of contributions, nearly 6 million euros, a historical high.

However, I regret to report that the outlook for 2026 is dire. The TFV anticipates a sharp decrease in income this year, possibly near to 25% of what was received last year.

Despite these limitations, through radical and difficult prioritisation decisions, the Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the TFV will complete the second reparations programme in the *Al Mahdi* case and will continue delivering reparations in the *Lubanga* and *Ntaganda* cases.

Also, the TFV has received the first pledge for resources to launch the Reparations Programme in the *Ongwen* case. This first pledge, from ODA-eligible funding from Finland [*pause to look at Paivi*], together with the allocations that the Board made from contributions in 2024, will shortly enable the announcement of the first complement to the *Ongwen* Reparation Order, and to launch the initial phase of the programme even if only modestly.

The Board of Directors has reported to the Assembly on the substantive measures to enhance the visibility of the Fund and of the Fund Mobilisation Strategy of the Fund, which was consulted at the Hague Working Group level throughout the year in a process nourished by the active engagement of numerous states parties

under the facilitation and leadership of His Excellency Vusi Madonsela, Ambassador of South Africa to the Netherlands.

Looking ahead, the Strategic Plan of the ICC for the 2026-2029 period, will contribute to the reinforcing the work of the Court and the Trust Fund on victims by delivering prompt and meaningful measures of redress, in line with the vanguard reparation principles issued by the Judges, according to the Rome Statute Article 75.

In closing the Board of Directors wishes to recognise the work of the ICC Presidency, the Judges, the Deputy Prosecutors and their office; as well as very importantly of the essential support the TFV has received from the Registry.

The Board of Directors acknowledges the trust that affected communities have put in the Court and the TFV as they are engaging in programmes. The TFV is both humbled and driven by our service to them.

Dear Excellencies, justice very much like history is made by the acts of individuals. These include activists, human rights defenders, academia, and the staff of the Court.

Centrally it relies on you, delegates from States Parties, who have the power to shape, through this Assembly, a pathway towards a justice and redress, for the benefit of all humanity.
