



**Special session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome  
Statute of the International Criminal Court on the Review of the  
Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression**

**General Debate, July 7, 2025**

Madam Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Canada is honoured to participate in this important review of the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression. We take this opportunity to reaffirm our strongest support for the International Criminal Court and for accountability for international crimes, including the crime of aggression.

The support of each and every State Party is of paramount importance during this time of continued threats to the Court, ranging from cyber attacks, to sanctions, to arrest warrants being issued against its officials. Indeed, we regret that the Court's principals could not join us here today.

Canada recalls with pride the active and constructive engagement of States in their collective efforts to reach consensus in 2010 and in 2017, leading to first the adoption and then the activation of the Kampala amendments. This milestone has strengthened the global accountability framework to hold perpetrators of aggression to account and to uphold the rule of law.

Our evaluation of whether to ratify the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression continues. As States Parties are gathered to share challenges and lessons learned, Canada commits to listening carefully to the perspectives of others.

At the same time, we wish to highlight one key concern that persists to this day: there is uncertainty regarding the full scope of the amendments and how the Court may interpret and apply them in practice. This ambiguity poses challenges to predictability and fairness for all parties. Some States have historically expressed concerns that this uncertainty might hinder international efforts to resolve ongoing conflicts and discourage countries

from participating in legitimate international security and stabilization operations – operations that can be geared at preventing the very atrocities addressed within the Rome Statute.

This concern must be approached with care to ensure that the Court's work complements, rather than compromises, international peace and security.

Madam Chair,

Canada strongly supports this review process. It is an opportunity to learn from each other's perspectives and experiences while strengthening the implementation of the Kampala Amendments, with a view towards the universalization of the Rome Statute.

Only by remaining united can we address the legitimate questions surrounding accountability for the crime of aggression and strengthen the Court's role in upholding the fundamental principles of international justice.

We encourage all States to participate actively and in good faith in the review process of the current amendments. This is an essential step before considering future actions.

Canada remains unwavering in its support for the ICC and in its commitment to the shared values of justice, sovereignty, and global peace. We strongly condemn acts of aggression and are determined to ensure that this crime does not go unpunished.

We look forward to working closely with all States Parties throughout this important review process.

Thank you.