

CZ Statement in General Debate (ICC ASP Special Session, 7 – 9 July 2025)

Madam President,

I wish to align with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Germany on behalf of the Group of Friends on the review of the ICC's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression, and reaffirm our full support for the draft resolution submitted by Liechtenstein.

In addition, I would make several brief comments in my national capacity. I would start with the famous quote by the Chief U.S. Prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials, Mr Robert H. Jackson:

*[A particularly eloquent and historically significant quote on the seriousness of the crime of aggression comes from **Robert H. Jackson**, Chief U.S. Prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials, in his opening statement on November 21, 1945:]*

“The common sense of mankind demands that law shall not stop with the punishment of petty crimes by little people. It must also reach men who possess themselves of great power and make deliberate and concerted use of it to set in motion evils which leave no home in the world untouched.”

This statement powerfully underscores the gravity of the crime of aggression, laying a foundation for aggression to be later defined as **“the supreme international crime”**, and regrettably has not lost its relevance in the present days.

We listened carefully to various concerns expressed by some of the States Parties. We fully acknowledge the importance of the legal certainty of the jurisdictional regime to be applied to the crime of aggression. In our understanding, this is one of aspects of the very purpose of the current Special Session – to discuss in good faith and to clarify any legal concerns of States Parties. Therefore, we are ready to engage constructively in achieving a much needed, as well as much overdue harmonisation of jurisdictional rules pertaining to exercising of the Court's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression.

This is no time for complacency; we must act now and fulfil our commitments in order to close the impunity gap for the gravest of international crimes, the crime of aggression.

Thank you, Madam President.