

**Remarks of Professor Jennifer Trahan  
On behalf of the Global Institute for the Prevention of Aggression  
Delivered to the Assembly of States Parties, Special Session  
Opening Plenary Session  
July 7, 2025**

**Distinguished delegates. It is an honor to address you. I represent the Global Institute for the Prevention of Aggression, a group of experts, founded by the U.S. Nuremberg prosecutor Benjamin Ferencz and his son Don Ferencz.**

**You have a momentous decision before you. It really comes down to whether you believe in the UN Charter and that leaders who foment aggressive war and other acts of aggression should face consequences.**

**Many States Parties see the benefit that the harmonization could provide in terms of jurisdiction. They do not want their states to become the victims of aggression.**

**But some states appear to still want delay. One wonders if this potentially suggest they do not want harmonization of jurisdiction at all, and instead, want to reserve to their leaders the ability to commit a manifest UN Charter violation—even though their state is already bound not to violate the UN Charter.**

To these states I would ask, do you believe that the precedent set in Nuremberg was wrong? Do you believe that this precedent should only be enforced when Russian nationals are implicated in the crime? But you do not stand for the rule of law more broadly? That is an untenable position.

Many other states, who have spoken eloquently here today, by contrast, want to reject selectivity and double-standards. They instead are committed to strengthening the International Criminal Court *and doing so now*.

There is a strong text proposal in front of you. It would restore the Rome Statute's article 12 jurisdiction to cover all four Rome Statute crimes. There is also a strong draft text resolution that would accompany the amendment.

Yes, there are still some questions but these appear potentially resolvable, and one should not put off their resolution potentially for years. Please do not let this happen.

How many victims of aggressive war would have to die waiting for these states to be ready to tackle the issue—if they would ever be willing to do so.

**The ICC needs more jurisdiction over this crime. There are many States Parties in this room who are committed to that goal and this is what needs to be accomplished at this Special Session. Thank you.**