

Statement by Ms. Hyunseung LEE

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ICC Special Session of the Assembly of States Parties on the review on the amendments to the crime of aggression

General Debate

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Madam President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you, Madam President, in your capacity as President of the Assembly, as well as to the team of the Bureau, the Working Groups, and the Secretariat of the Assembly for all the excellent work in preparing for this Special Session.

This Special Session provides a crucial opportunity for States Parties to understand diverse positions among them and keep exploring to reach convergence on the crime of aggression. To this end, some work remains to be done: discussing achievements of the Kampala amendments, sharing success stories and challenges in ratification and implementation, and thoroughly examining varying interpretations and opinions among states. These are the stepping stones that will help narrow down our differences, prevent fragmentation, and achieve greater unity and universality.

While ending impunity and harmonizing jurisdiction are the goals that this Assembly should continuously pursue, we have been hearing voices of concern as well. And this indicates that adopting a new amendment without sufficient consultation to resolve contradictions may, contrary to their

intended purpose, undermine the Court's long-term development and effectiveness. In this regard, I believe the goal of this Special Session should be to achieve an outcome based on consensus.

We commend the Court for fulfilling its essential mandate despite facing unprecedented challenges in recent times. And it is these challenging circumstances that further underscores the critical need for meticulous approach, unity among States Parties, as well as the promotion of universality. The Republic of Korea believes that by this way the Court's resilience can be strengthened.

As a major contributor to the Court and an ad country focal point on Universality, the Republic of Korea would like to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the Court's mission. Through our collective efforts and shared commitment to the principles of international criminal justice, we can advance our common goal of accountability for the most serious crimes of international concern.

I thank you, Madam President. /End/