

Thank you Madam Chair for giving me the floor.

- My delegation aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of Friends and we would like to make a few comments in our national capacity.
- In a world marked by increasing polarization and violence, my delegation underlines the importance of upholding the international legal order.
- We – State Parties of the ICC – established this Court and entrusted it with its important mandate, to apply the norms of this order and to fight impunity for core international crimes.
- The ICC should be able to carry out its mandate without interference, threats or intimidation.

- The Kingdom of the Netherlands deeply regrets that the Court that we so carefully created, and its officials, are now confronted with external threats that impair its ability to function effectively.
- As host State of the ICC, the Kingdom of the Netherlands has unique responsibilities and obligations to ensure that the Court can operate safely and independently.
- We are committed to fulfilling our obligations under the Headquarters Agreement between the Court and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- We do underline that ultimately it is our shared responsibility to support the court and to enable it to fulfil its mandate, by providing the budget and the cooperation it needs.
- After more than a quarter of a century, not all promises of the Rome Statute have been fulfilled.

- This Special Session of the Assembly of States Parties offers a unique opportunity to make substantive progress in closing gaps in the Statute, while keeping in mind the best interests of the Court.
- The Kingdom of the Netherlands is convinced that the Court, with the strong support of its States Parties, and the valuable contributions of civil society organisations, will be able to continue to play a key role in the fight against impunity.

Thank you.

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