

*Permanent Observer Mission  
of the State of Palestine  
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة  
لدولة فلسطين  
لدى الأمم المتحدة

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Majed Bamya, Deputy Permanent Representative of the State of Palestine before the Assembly special session on the review of amendments on the crime of aggression, 7 July 2025**

Madam President,

The State of Palestine aligns itself with the statements delivered by Germany and Mexico on behalf of a group of states.

For all of us who knew him or had the privilege to be in his presence, the spirit of Ben Ferencz is present with us in this room, as he has been a lifelong light bearer on this journey.

May we be inspired by the giants that preceded us as we consider the important matters before us, what will be our collective legacy, either that we watched over the unraveling of the international law based order that protects all of us, or we stood together to sustain and consolidate it.

This order was not born out of ideals disconnected from reality, but rather from the experience of the horrors of the Second World War, including aggression, the Holocaust, the large scale indiscriminate attacks against cities and their Obliteration leading to mass civilian casualties, illegal occupation and the horrific treatment reserved to prisoners of war and other daunting breaches of the rules dictated by a common and shared humanity.

The rules enacted then were not a result of naivete, but of fully grasping the need to save future generations from the repeat of these crimes. The ICC itself was born out of horrors and of the realization that without accountability, the rules by themselves, would not allow to prevent recurrence of crimes. It is our common and imperfect response to that reality.

We have a duty, beyond our own immediate interests towards victims, we have a duty to honor the memory of the victims of the past, to deliver justice to victims of the present, and to save those who might become victims in the future if we fail to act. When we speak of the crime of aggression, the supreme international crime, we speak of a crime against a nation. That crime is an integral part of the crimes foreseen in the Rome Statute and over which the court had jurisdiction.

Is it less grave than the other crimes to justify a much more restrictive jurisdiction of regime the supreme international crime, a crime against a nation, a breach of the foundational principle, the bedrock of our international law based order, the prohibition of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state or in any manner, other manner, inconsistent with the purposes of the UN? If the answer is no, it is not less grave, and if victims of this crime deserve to be equally protected, and if perpetrators of this crime are not entitled to impunity, then harmonization is the only course of action.

This is the unity we should strive for in this context and in any context, and we stand ready to work with all of you to advance this noble objective. and I thank you madam president.