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Statement by H.E. Mr. Csaba KŐRÖSI
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at the 13th Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International
Criminal Court
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Mr. President,
Members of the Assembly,
Distinguished Delegates,

I am honored to address the Assembly of States Parties today on behalf of Hungary. First of all my delegation would like to congratulate you Mr. President on the occasion of your election. Hungary, as a Bureau member, stands ready to support your work. I also wish to thank the outgoing President of the Assembly, Ambassador Tiina Intelmann for her tireless efforts and her outstanding work as President.

Hungary, as a State Party that has nominated a strong and internationally acknowledged candidate, congratulates to the outstanding new judges elect and wishes a lot of success to the candidates still in the competition.

Mr. President,

Hungary aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. At this point I wish to add a few points in my national capacity.

The delivery of the **first two final judgments** of the Court marks the beginning of a new chapter for international criminal justice. Hungary is hopeful that these historic judgments, as well as the special focus on the victims of the crimes committed will contribute to the bolstering of trust in the Court.

Nonetheless, we also have to note that there have been no new States Parties joining the ICC community in the past year. Therefore we wish to underline that we must step up our efforts to achieve **universality** of the Rome Statute. We call for increased efforts by the Court and other international, regional, but also civil organisations to persuade non-parties to ratify the Statute. The Rome Statute is not solely about the establishment of the ICC. It is about the joint will of States Parties to make sure, through national legislation and national action, that atrocity crimes do not happen, and if they do, perpetrators are prosecuted expeditiously at the national level. The

Rome Statute can strengthen the sovereignty of State Parties, while the ICC remains the last resort to turn to when there is no other recourse to justice.

Mr. President,

The principle of **complementarity** also requires strong commitment of the States Parties. We call on States Parties and other actors such as regional organisations to provide assistance to national capacity building with the intention to ensure that all States can fight impunity effectively. The Court relies on the support and cooperation of the States Parties. We encourage further efforts aimed at strengthening the relationship of the Court with regional organisations, such as the African Union, and with civil society organisations.

The **independence of the Court** is essential to its credibility and to its ability to effectively discharge its mandate to deliver impartial and fair justice. We, States Parties, have to safeguard this independence when exercising the ASP's management oversight role and at the same time be open to a constructive dialogue.

We acknowledge the **partnership between the ICC, the Security Council and the broader United Nations**. This is a partnership of values, justice, peace, security, rule of law, and for the universal respect for human rights. ICC is now part of the permanent international architecture to uphold these values, while the UN Membership can do much more to help the ICC mature and grow.

Hungary welcomes the first visit of the Security Council to the Seat of the ICC. We believe that the Council plays a crucial role in assuring accountability globally by referring situations involving atrocity crimes to the ICC. Therefore the Security Council needs to follow-up on its referrals and give full support to the effective prosecution by the Court. As regards the budgetary implications of referrals, Hungary is of the view that the relationship agreement concluded between the UN and the Court should be fully implemented.

Mr. President,

International criminal justice requires efficient mechanisms. We need to make sure that the lack of adequate funds does not hamper the increasing activities of the Court.

Regarding the **organizational reforms**, Hungary commends the continuous endeavor of the Court's organs that aims at fostering efficiency, streamlining the operation of the Court and expediting the judicial process. In this context we wish to underline the importance of transparency and the need for identifying further areas for improvement. Hungary hopes to have been able to contribute to this reform process by facilitating the legal aid related discussions in the Hague Working Group of the Bureau.

In conclusion I would like to reiterate our deepest commitment to the International Criminal Court and to the fight against impunity for the most serious international crimes.

I thank you for your attention.