



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement by Mr Theodoulos Pittakis, Second Secretary**

**Item 74 – Report of the International Criminal Court**

**78<sup>th</sup> session of the UNGA, New York, 30 October 2023**

Mr. President,

It is my honor to present remarks on the Report of the International Criminal Court on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus. These remarks complement the statement of the European Union.

We are grateful to President Hofmański for his introduction of the report contained in document A/78/322. During the reporting period, the Court saw a high level of activity in pretrial, trial and appeals proceedings and the implementation of reparations, as well as the investigations and preliminary examinations conducted by the Office of the Prosecutor. Cyprus also expresses its recognition of the benefits that the Trust Fund for Victims has brought to thousands of victims of international crimes worldwide.

Mr. President,

Cyprus has always been a strong supporter of the ICC system. Together with other States Parties, we have been striving along to consolidate it as an independent and impartial judicial institution of the highest quality. We welcome the continued active engagement of the Court in the review process aimed at enhancing the performance and effectiveness of the institution and the wider Rome Statute system.

Cyprus also continues to work for the universal ratification and full implementation of the Rome Statute and calls on all Member States to become party to the Statute. In this regard, Cyprus welcomes the ratification of the Rome Statute by Armenia earlier this month.

Mr. President,

With respect to the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression, Cyprus notes that, during the reporting period, two States accepted or ratified the amendments, bringing the total number of States to forty-five.

As a victim of foreign aggression, Cyprus was one of the first countries to ratify the amendment, which has been embedded in the jurisdictional regime of the Rome Statute since July 2018. Cyprus urges all State Parties to the Rome Statute to do the same to extend the geographical scope of the Court's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression—a crime that has often been committed with impunity.

Moreover, in this view, with reference to the Situation in Ukraine, Cyprus, being one of the 38 States which co-signed on 2nd March 2022 the “State Party Referral under article 14 of the Rome Statute”, referring the Situation in Ukraine to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, follows closely the developments in the ICC and strongly believes that no impunity is permitted for serious international crimes like genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity

Cognizant of the important contributions the Court has made to address impunity, Cyprus however reiterates that much more is needed to effectively address serious crimes and atrocities that continue unabated around the world. Among others, the lack of impunity is partly owed to the lack of referrals by the Security Council. We believe that the ability of the Security Council to refer situations to the Court is one of the most powerful tools at its disposal to interrupt the conflict cycle, to ensure sustainable peace and to provide justice and effective remedies to the victims.

I thank you for your attention.