



UNGA Debate on Item 74: Report of the International Criminal Court, 28 October 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Justine Micallef

First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations, New York

President

Malta thanks President Tomoko Akane for presenting the report of the International Criminal Court, highlighting the Court's fundamental importance as an essential feature for the collective pursuit of international criminal justice.

We also thank The Netherlands for facilitating the process.

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union, and would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity.



President

The creation of a permanent, treaty-based, international criminal court in 1998 had, as its core-purpose, the goal of ending impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. With justice for victims at its core, this mission continues to govern the activity of this independent and impartial judicial institution.

We therefore reiterate our unwavering support and solidarity with the Court in fulfilling its outmost important mandate, condemn any attacks or threats on the Court, its Prosecutor, judges, and personnel, and underline that all States Parties to the Rome Statute must comply with their international legal obligations and uphold the work of ICC.



In our endeavour towards achieving universality of the Rome Statute, we welcome Armenia's achievement in becoming a State Party of the Rome Statute, and we congratulate Ukraine for recently depositing its instrument of ratification of the Rome Statute on 25 October 2024. Such developments will continue to strengthen the Court, while enabling future accountability efforts to prevail.

President

We would like to also reflect on the relationship between the International Criminal Court and the Security Council. We recall the Political Declaration on Suspension of Veto Powers in Cases of Mass Atrocities launched by France and Mexico, that Malta has signed along with other 103 UN Member States. A veto should not prevent the Security Council from taking action when crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, or the crime of aggression are committed. This also includes referrals by the Security Council.



Lastly, the International Criminal Court has demonstrated considerable progress in its investigations and judicial proceedings in various situations and cases. We maintain our firm conviction that the ICC is an indispensable institution in the architecture of international criminal law. We stand ready to participate in holistic efforts that would enable the Court to continue to effectively ensure justice for the most serious crimes.

I thank you.