

**Statement by
Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of the Netherlands
& the Representative/Delegate to the ICC
at the 23rd Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute
International Criminal Court (ICC), The Hague, 2-7 December 2024**

Madam President

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, I extend our sincere congratulations to you, Madam President, for your exceptional leadership of this Assembly. Our thanks also go to all members of the Bureau, as well as to the Principals of the Court, including the Office of the Prosecutor, the Registry, and the Trust Fund for Victims, for their unwavering dedication to advancing the ICC's mission. The spirit of justice that brings us together here today is a testament to the enduring values of the Rome-Statute.

Madam President

Bangladesh's commitment to the Rome Statute and the work of the International Criminal Court runs deep. Our own history—shaped by the profound suffering endured during the 1971 War of Liberation—has instilled in us an unwavering resolve to combat impunity. In recent times, the world has witnessed the crimes committed against the students and people in Bangladesh in July 2024 during the monsoon revolution, who were demanding equity and justice. The interim government led by Noble Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus in Bangladesh is committed to ensure promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental rights of citizen, equity, accountability and dispensing of justice aligning with the universal principles of human rights.

Madam President

Since August 2017, Bangladesh has been sheltering over 1.2 million forcefully displaced Rohingya people from Myanmar fleeing all sorts of prosecutable crimes. They have been aptly described as one of the most persecuted communities in the world.

We thank the office of the Prosecutor for its ongoing investigations about the atrocities committed against the Rohingyas by Myanmar military junta. We commend the application submitted by the Prosecutor for an arrest warrant against Myanmar General and Acting President Min Aung Hlaing. This significant step serves as a beacon of hope for justice and accountability for the crimes committed against the Rohingya people, and is essential for fostering conditions that allow for the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of the Rohingya to Myanmar. We remain committed to extending all possible support to the OTP for successful completion of the ongoing investigation on the Rohingya situation. I thank the Prosecutor for undertaking a visit to Bangladesh only few days back.

Madam President

Bangladesh is deeply troubled by the ongoing humanitarian crises in Gaza, the broader Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Lebanon. The ICC has an essential role to play in investigating and addressing potential war crimes and crimes against humanity by the Israeli occupation forces in these regions.

Recently, the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion that Israel's 57-year occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory remains illegal. In this context, Bangladesh welcomes the issuance of arrest warrants against key individuals, including the Israeli Prime Minister and the former Defense Minister, for their involvement.

Madam President,

Bangladesh underscores the importance of the ICC's complementarity principle, which encourages national jurisdictions to prosecute international crimes within their own legal systems. We believe this model can serve as an example for others and call on the ICC to expand its technical assistance, particularly in the areas of victim and witness protection, to support national justice efforts around the world.

Adequate funding is crucial for the ICC's ability to operate effectively, and we urge all States Parties to consider extending budgetary support commensurating its mandate. Bangladesh also supports ongoing review initiatives and encourages sustained efforts to enhance geographical representation and gender balance within the ICC's structure to address the gaps in equitable geographical representation.

Madam President,

As we commemorate the 26th anniversary of the Rome Statute, Bangladesh underscores the importance of expanding the reach of the Rome Statute and promoting its universality. Bangladesh reiterates its call to the remaining UN member states to join the Rome Statute to bolster the collective commitment of ICC to end impunity for the gravest crimes of concern to the international community.

To conclude Madam President, I reiterate Bangladesh's firm support for the ICC's mission to deliver justice and accountability for all sorts of gravest crimes under jurisdiction of the ICC. We share the Court's aspirations for a world bounded in peace, security, and human rights. As we move forward together, let us renew our commitment to a world where justice knows no borders, and impunity finds no refuge.

Thank you, Madam President.
