Thank you very much Mr. Chairman,

Mexico wishes to thank Judge Sang-Hyung Song, President of the International Criminal Court, for the presentation of the tenth annual report of the Court before this General Assembly, relating to the work of the tribunal from August 2013 to July 2014.

We regret that, as indicated by the report, said period was the first in which no State adhered to the Rome Statute. Although we are already a majority of 122 State Parties to this instrument, we should not lose sight of the objective of achieving its universal ratification, in order to maximize its preventive potential in the world. For this reason, Mexico urges States that have not yet done so to promptly ratify the Rome Statute, and in this way join the collective commitment of combating impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole.

Mr. Chairman,

The report presented by the Court shows various laudable achievements during the year subject to report. The ad hoc acceptance of the jurisdiction of the Court by Ukraine – a State that is not a Party to the Statute - last April, as well as the second remission by the Central African Republic of its situation to the Court last June, evidence an increasing trust placed by both State Parties and non-Parties in the diligent functions carried out by the tribunal. In addition, at a judicial level, this year marks the adoption of the first definitive sentence of the Court, as well as an increasingly greater participation by victims in the processes.

Mr. Chairman,

There is no doubt that there is solid progress in the process of consolidation of the criminal justice system created by the Rome Statute.

At the same time, the report evidences that we, as members of the international community, need to join our efforts in order to overcome the challenges that the Court continues to face for the full realization of its mandate.

Firstly, I refer to the lack of cooperation of certain States, evidenced by the fact that still warrants of arrest against 12 persons are pending execution, despite the fact that some of these persons are perfectly locatable. For this reason, the cooperation of States, both
Parties and non-Parties, is absolutely essential for the Court to fully carry out its objectives.

Given that this lack of cooperation also affects situations that have been referred by the Security Council to the Court, I take advantage of this opportunity to emphasize the importance that the Security Council may effectively follow up on these referrals, including through the creation of a mechanism for this purpose.

Mr. Chairman,

Secondly, Mexico wishes to underline the importance that the Security Council be guided by objective and non-politicized criteria in the referral of situations to the International Criminal Court, as an international response tool that contributes to ensure that international crimes do not remain in impunity.

Mr Chairman,

Finally, Mexico would like to recall an essential aspect for the effective consolidation of the Court, which is its budget.

Mexico, as one of the principal contributors to the budget of the Court, reiterates the importance of it having sufficient resources with which to fulfil its mandate. For this reason, we participate actively and responsibly in the process of determination of the budget of the Court.

The enormous challenge faced by the Court due to increase in situations and cases under its consideration evidences with even greater reason the necessity, underlined by my delegation on many occasions in this forum, that the referrals by the Security Council be financed through funds provided by this General Assembly, as set forth in article 115 of the Rome Statute.

Likewise, we consider that this challenge must be accompanied by an increasingly more efficient use by the Court of the resources provided to it. Mexico is convinced that said efficiency requires that the Court focus on the fulfilment of the mandate conferred to it under the Rome Statute.

In this sense, we commend the efforts carried out by this Organization of the United Nations, by international and regional organizations and by the civil society, in mainstreaming capacity building activities aimed at strengthening national jurisdictions with regard to investigating and prosecuting international crimes into new and existing technical assistance programmes and instruments, such as those related to human rights, rule of law and development. In the framework of this Organization, it is worth mentioning the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, the Rule of Law Unit, the Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review Mechanism and the post-2015 Development Agenda, among others. Furthermore, it is worth highlighting the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and other regional organizations in this task.
Mexico recognizes the vital importance of this strengthening, and considers that said efforts should be carried out in these fora and not in the framework of the Rome Statute system, which does not provide a mandate for this purpose, as a means to ensure more efficient use of the budget conferred to the Court.

Mr. Chairman,

The relationship between this Organization and the International Criminal Court is an area of opportunity to jointly achieve, from their respective spheres of competence, the common objective of combating impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole.

Mexico reiterates its commitment to the International Criminal Court and is willing to continue collaborating towards this common objective, both within this Organization and in the other pertinent fora.

Thank you very much.