69TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS ON AGENDA ITEM 73:

Report of the International Criminal Court

30 October 2014

The Republic of Cyprus is pleased to participate in today’s consideration of the annual report of the International Criminal Court (A/69/321).

My delegation would like to seize the opportunity of this meeting to reiterate its commitment and support to the Court, a support that has been afforded to the court since its inception.

This has been the case for the following reasons: firstly, we consider it a moral obligation to promote the accountability for atrocities irrespective of where these are committed; secondly, we steadfastly support the strengthening of international law as a means to a more just and peaceful international order; and thirdly, the fact that our country continues to experience the effects of injustice committed for forty years due to aggression and foreign occupation, renders the mission of the Court even more salient to us.

Considering the aforementioned reasons, it is not a coincidence that Cyprus has been a Member of the ICC since 2002, and has been one of the first countries to ratify the amendments to the Rome Statute adopted in Kampala in 2010, including the amendment concerning the Crime of Aggression. My country is proud to be actively engaged in, among other things, the promotion of the universalization and full implementation of the Rome Statute, elements which constitute persisting challenges to the Court, and whose overcoming is vital for the achievement of the Court’s mission. In this regard my country is proud to currently serve as a co-focal point within the Assembly of States Parties, for promoting the Plan of Action for the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute.

My delegation believes that cooperation amongst all stakeholders is key to overcoming current and future challenges. States Parties especially, ought to continue promoting the independence, credibility and efficiency of the Court.

The Republic of Cyprus would like to reiterate its conviction that the court significantly contributes to the overall goal of the UN to work towards the consolidation of peace and security. In this sense the relationship between the UN and the Court as formalized in the 2004 Relationship Agreement is significant. The further strengthening of this relationship, by means of practical steps, as those found in the Report of the Court to the Assembly of States Parties on the status of ongoing cooperation between the ICC and the UN (ICC-ASP/12/42) is something we support. In highlighting the importance of the complementarity of this relationship, my delegation would moreover like to seize this opportunity to highlight the importance of efforts by the UN in strengthening the capacity of its membership to address Rome Statute crimes.
The creation of the ICC was thought by many to be a mission impossible. Yet for the last twelve years it has been tangibly contributing to the advancement of international justice. For this reason, the Republic of Cyprus would, in welcoming this year’s report of the ICC, like to reiterate its unwavering support to it.

Thank you for your attention.