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Reviewing the ICC's Jurisdiction over the Crime of Aggression: Addressing a Double Standard in International Law

Wednesday, 4 December 2024, 18:15 - 19:30 The World Forum, Oceania Foyer

While the ICC has been able to exercise jurisdiction over the crime of aggression since 2018 in defined circumstances, its jurisdictional reach with respect to this crime is very limited. In order to protect the UN Charter's prohibition of the illegal use of force, the keystone of the international legal order, from erosion, it is more important now than ever to take steps to deter the crime of aggression, and to be able to prosecute the crime should deterrence fail. At this serious juncture, it is critical that ICC States Parties harmonize the Court's jurisdiction over all four of its core crimes, thereby reducing selectivity, and overcoming a significant double-standard in international law.

As part of an agreement at the first ICC Review Conference in Kampala, Uganda, to adopt the crime of aggression amendments to the Rome Statute of the ICC, States decided to mandate a review of the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression – in 2025.

The panel will discuss the importance of States using the mandated review of the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression to harmonize the ICC's jurisdiction over all four of its core crimes.

Welcoming remarks: H.E. Marko Rakovec, Director-General of Directorate for International Law, MFA Slovenia

Opening remarks: H.E. Ambassador Gina Guillén-Grillo, Director of Foreign Policy, MFA Costa Rica

Panelists: H.E. Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the UN

Prof. Charles Jalloh, Member of the International Law Commission

Prof. Jennifer Trahan, Convenor of the Global Institute for the Prevention of Aggression

Prof. Dr. Claus Kreß, University of Cologne

Moderator: Ms. Isabelle Hassfurther, Legal Advisor, the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights

Closing remarks: Dr. Wiebke Rückert, Director for Public International Law, Federal Foreign Office of Germany