

**Special session of the Assembly of States Parties on the review of the
amendments on the crime of aggression**

General debate – Intervention on behalf of Parliamentarians for Global Action

7 July 2025

Delivered by Hon. Syed Naveed Qamar, President of Parliamentarians for Global Action

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great honor that I stand before you today as the President of Parliamentarians for Global Action, a non-partisan NGO network of over 1000 legislators from 144 parliaments of all regions of the world acting in their individual capacity to advocate for human rights, democracy, justice and peace.

Excellencies,

As we gather here, we are confronted with a proliferation of aggressive wars whose heaviest toll, as always, falls on civilians. While the multilateral order is shaken and diplomacy weakened, the system of international criminal justice we have collectively built over decades is under threat of collapse.

Yet, today, as the guardians of an ideal of conscience, you have the unique opportunity – and the profound responsibility – to reinforce the Rome Statute system. The time for decisive action is now.

For years, Parliamentarians for Global Action has championed not only the ratification of the Kampala amendments but also the urgent need to close the accountability gap by aligning the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression with the one of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

We have witnessed firsthand the suffering of civilians who pay the price for the limitations of selective accountability. To end impunity, there is only one path forward: remove the constraints preventing the International Criminal Court from fulfilling its full mandate. Ensure the amendment harmonizing the jurisdiction over the crime of aggression with the other three crimes enters into force under Article 121 (5) of the Rome Statute - the same procedure as the original Kampala amendments.

The decisions you will take will also challenge non-party States who use claims of selective justice to stay outside the Rome Statute system. Prove them wrong.

Excellencies, there is no room for compromises that would betray victims of this atrocity crime. Give priority to justice. Close the accountability gap.

Thank you.