Official reviewer – Ph.D., Consultant of the Representation of the President Republic of Kazakhstan to Parliament Republic of Kazakhstan, Akhmetov Yerik Baurzhanovich, reviewed the dissertation titled «Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over the Prosecution of Individuals», prepared by Wang He-Yong for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the educational program «8D04201 – International Law»

№	Criteria	Compliance with criteria	Position of official reviewer
1.	Compliance of the dissertation topic (as of the date of approval) with the directions of scientific development and/or state programs	1.1 Compliance with scientific development directions and/or state programs: 1) The dissertation was completed within the framework of a project or target program financed from the state budget (name and number of the project or program); 2) The dissertation was completed within the framework of another state program (name of the program) 3) The dissertation corresponds to the priority direction of scientific development approved by the Higher Scientific and Technical Commission under the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan (indicate the direction)	The dissertation by Wang He-Yong, titled "Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over the Prosecution of Individuals", was prepared for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) within the educational program «8D04201 – International Law». The research aligns with the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, fully adhering to the objectives and tasks outlined in the academic plan. The dissertation corresponds to the training objectives under the program «8D042 — International Law» and meets the academic standards for doctoral studies in the fields of «6D030100, 8D04202 – Jurisprudence» and «6D030200, 8D04201 – International Law».
2.	Importance to Science	The work **makes** / does not make a significant contribution to science, and its significance **is** / is not clearly demonstrated	On one hand, this dissertation is theoretical **significant**. It is not only descriptive, but deconstructive and constructive. First, it presents his view on the nature of the prosecution on individuals, namely, deny the personality of the state, which set the tone for the whole dissertation. Second, it captures the difficulties faced by the ICC when it exercises its jurisdiction, and the author undertakes exhaustive legal debates on legal provisions and mechanisms, which makes the essay powerful. Third, this dissertation established an axiology system for the international criminal law to defend for justice of the rule of international criminal law around the world. On

			the other hand, the practical importance of this dissertation is obvious. The author presents several suggestions, which are helpful for the due exercise of the jurisdiction of the ICC.
3.	The principle of self-writing	Self-writing level: **1) high**; 2) average; 3) low; 4) did not write myself	The overall quality of the dissertation is **high**. The writing is fluent, clear, and professionally executed. The dissertation leaves a strong and positive impression on the reader.
4.	The principle of internal unity	4.1 Justification of the relevance of the thesis: **1) founded;** 2) partially justified; 3) or reasonable.	The dissertation represents a scientifically significant study, presenting **original and theoretically well-substantiated results**. The reliability and objectivity of the findings are beyond doubt, supported by a thorough analysis of primary sources and law enforcement practices. The scientific novelty of the research lies in its status as one of the first comprehensive attempts to examine the responsibility of individuals within the framework of international law. Given that this aspect of the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction remains underexplored, the author has successfully demonstrated the relevance of the chosen topic and its importance for the continued development of international criminal law.
		4.2 The content of the dissertation determines the topic of the dissertation **1) determines;** 2) partially determines; 3) does not determine	The content of the dissertation is **fully aligned** with the research plan. Through the study and analysis of the dissertation, the research content clearly defines and reflects the topic. The work is structured into three interrelated sections, ensuring a coherent and logical presentation of the material.
		4.3 The goal and objectives correspond to the topic of the dissertation: **1) corresponds**; 2) partially corresponds; 3) does not correspond	The goals and objectives of the research have been **fully achieved**. The dissertation presents a comprehensive study of the theoretical and practical challenges and dilemmas related to the exercise of jurisdiction by the International Criminal Court. Based on an analysis of the provisions of the Rome Statute and case studies, the author conducts in-depth legal discussions concerning legal norms and mechanisms of their application in international law. The work proposes innovative value-based approaches to addressing the

			identified issues. In particular, an original method for structuring international criminal law is developed, dividing it into three components: factology, norms, and axiology. The dissertation not only critically evaluates existing axiological theories of international criminal law but also introduces a new theory of sovereignty and formulates a preliminary axiological framework from the perspective of political realism.
		4.4. All sections and the structure of the dissertation are logically connected: **1) completely connected;** 2) partially connected; 3) no connection	One of the distinguishing features of the dissertation is the **coherent and logically structured** integration of all its sections, which is evidenced by the consistent presentation of the material in alignment with the overall framework and logical system of the study. The research is conducted at a high academic level, with the dissertation thoroughly addressing all components of the research process.
		4.5 New solutions (principles, methods) proposed by the author are proven and evaluated in comparison with already known solutions: **1) there is a critical analysis;** 2) the analysis was carried out partially; 3) the analysis is based not on personal opinion, but on references from other authors	The author conducted a comparative analysis of the subject, beginning from a historical perspective and extending to its application in the contemporary stage of international criminal justice practice. The new results presented by the author are substantiated and evaluated in comparison with existing approaches, supported by a **thorough critical analysis**..

5.	The principle of scientific novelty	5.1 Are the scientific results and principles new? **1) completely new;** 2) semi-new (25-75% are new); 3) not new (less than 25% is new)	The scientific results and principles presented in the dissertation are entirely novel, significantly enhancing the work's value as it contributes to the advancement of international criminal law. The importance of these findings lies in identifying the core challenge to the International Criminal Court's (ICC) jurisdiction and the enforcement of individual criminal responsibility: the denial of the historical evolution of sovereignty. As globalization deepens, inter-state relations become increasingly interconnected, with international treaties, agreements, and customs reflecting the gradual transfer of sovereignty, affirming its historical nature. Establishing the rule of law in the field of international criminal law (ICL) can enhance the ICC's effectiveness, curb the abuse of sovereignty, and contribute to maintaining international order and human well-being.
		5.2 Are the findings of the dissertation new? **1) completely new;** 2) semi-new (25-75% are new); 3) not new (less than 25% is new)	The conclusions of the dissertation are **completely new**
		5.3 Are the technical, technological, economic or managerial decisions new and justified? **1) completely new;** 2) semi-new (25-75% are new); 3) not new (less than 25% is new)	The technical, technological, economic or management solutions are **completely new and justified**.
6.	Validity of the main conclusions	All conclusions **are substantiated**/not substantiated in large-scale evidence from a scientific point of view (in qualitative research and art history and humanities)	The main conclusions presented by the author in the dissertation are based on reliable data, both from a scientific point of view and from a scientific point of view. All conclusions go back to comprehensive and systematic scientific works and principles concerning the topic taken as the main object of the study, and scientific conclusions are made on the basis of **analysis and comparative analysis.**

7.	The main principles put forward for defense	For each principle, the following questions must be answered: 7.1 Is the principle proven? **1) proven;** 2) approximately proven; 3) not proven approximately; 4) not proven 7.2 Trivial? 1) yes; **2) no** 7.3 New? **1) yes;** 2) no 7.4 Level of use: 1) Narrow; 2) Medium; **3) Wide** 7.5 Proven in the work? **1) yes;** 2) no	The dissertation presents four main conclusions submitted for defense: **Result 1.** The nature of the jurisdiction of the ICC on prosecution of individual is to deny the national personality. Prosecuting individuals both limits and demonstrates state sovereignty, which make contributions to the rule of international criminal law. **Result 2.** Though the prosecution on individuals could contribute to the rule of international criminal law, the ICC is facing horrible difficulties when exercising its jurisdiction. this dissertation divided the difficulties faced by the ICC into two parts. First, the ICC is facing with theoretical difficulties, such as «Conceptual dilemma: unitary design and dual reality», «dilemma of the coercive force of norms: the RS lacks coercive force», «dilemma of regulatory clarity: vague provisions on discretionary power lead sovereign states to refuse to cooperate» and «legal technology dilemma: functional interpretations v. legality», which caused difficulties for the ICC to exercise its jurisdiction over individual prosecutions **Result 3.** Second, the prctical difficulties faced by the ICC includes "Political dilemma: Opposition from major powers makes it difficult to enforce the jurisdiction of the ICC" and "Execution dilemma: Arrest warrants are difficult to execute, resulting in the court's jurisdiction being vacated", these two main realistic reasons makes it difficult for the ICC to exercise its jurisdiction over the individuals. **Result 4.** The basic reason why the ICC is difficult to exercise its jurisdiction is the tension between sovereignty and the common good. The way to overpass selfish sovereignty interest is to defend for the justice of the rule of international criminal law, and the way to defend justice for the rule of international criminal law is to construct an axiology system for the international criminal jurisprudence, which contributes to the ideal construction for the rule of international criminal law. This article proposed axiology system, put forward several core propositions in the international criminal axiology system and pointed the rule of international

			criminal law is both a kind of common good and protection of individual rights.
8.	The principle of consistency Sequence of sources and presented information	8.1 Choice of methodology - justified or methodology clearly stated **1) yes;** 2) no	**Yes.** The chosen research methodology is well-justified and clearly articulated. The author presents a precise and systematic approach to the study, which serves as a key factor in ensuring the objectivity and reliability of the results. The dissertation's methodological framework involves the comprehensive application of normative legal analysis, the historical method, comparative legal analysis, and qualitative research techniques. The methodology is presented in a coherent and credible manner, providing a solid foundation for confidence in the research outcomes and establishing the dissertation as a valuable contribution to the field.
		8.2 The results of the dissertation work were obtained using modern methods of scientific research and methods of processing and interpreting data using computer technologies: **1) yes;** 2) no	**Yes.** The results of the dissertation were obtained using modern scientific research methods, as well as advanced techniques for data processing and interpretation. The author employed cutting-edge computer technologies, which ensured a high level of accuracy and reliability in the analysis of large volumes of information.
		8.3 Theoretical conclusions, models, identified relationships and patterns are proven and confirmed by experimental studies (results for areas of training in pedagogical sciences are proven on the basis of a pedagogical experiment): **1) yes;** 2) no	**Yes.** Theoretical conclusions, models, identified relationships, and patterns presented in the dissertation are substantiated and validated through experimental research. This ensures that the scientific principles and conclusions outlined in the dissertation are credible and well-founded. In the context of analyzing international criminal justice practices, quantitative data were processed to guarantee objectivity and accuracy, employing statistical methods to ensure the reliability and reproducibility of the research results. This provided additional confirmation of the theoretical assumptions. Such an approach not only allowed for the verification of the proposed hypotheses but also facilitated the discovery of new correlations and patterns in the development of Kazakhstan's labor and legal systems.

		8.4 Important claims are **supported**/partially supported/not supported by references to specific and reliable scientific literature	The data presented in the course of the research are **supported** by references to credible and reliable scientific literature. The bibliography includes relevant academic sources containing numerous verified data that substantiate the key findings of the dissertation.
		8.5 The list of references is **sufficient**/insufficient for a literature review	The bibliography used in the dissertation is sufficient to provide a comprehensive literature review. The author demonstrates a deep understanding of the research topic by referencing a wide range of scholarly works, including contemporary monographs, peer-reviewed journal articles, as well as international documents and decisions of the International Criminal Court. The selection of literature reflects the **relevance** and diversity of approaches to the study, capturing the multifaceted and complex nature of the subject. The inclusion of both classical works in this field and the latest publications ensures the completeness and timeliness of the literature review. The dissertation adequately incorporates Chinese academic literature, textbooks, and scholarly articles. To conduct a thorough investigation of the research topic, the author reviewed an extensive body of scientific literature, utilizing 161 sources.
9	The principle of practical value	9.1 The dissertation has theoretical significance: 1) yes; 2) no	**Yes.** The dissertation possesses significant scientific and theoretical value, contributing to a deeper understanding and development of the theoretical foundations of the International Criminal Court and the institution of individual criminal responsibility. The study provides a thorough analysis of the dilemmas faced by the International Criminal Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction. Particular attention is given to identifying the primary obstacle to the ICC's jurisdiction, namely the conflict between state sovereignty and supranational authority. The author asserts that jus cogens norms reflect the common interests of humanity and proposes a fundamental approach to resolving this dilemma by constructing an axiology system aimed at safeguarding justice within international criminal law and strengthening the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

		9.2 The dissertation has practical significance and has a high possibility of applying the obtained results in practice: **1) yes;** 2) no	The dissertation holds practical significance and offers a high potential for the application of its findings in practice - **yes.**. The recommendations and conclusions derived from the research can be effectively utilized in legislative processes and in optimizing law enforcement practices, particularly in the development of amendments and improvements to the functioning of the International Criminal Court. Furthermore, the results of the study can serve as a valuable resource for conducting further scientific research, teaching international criminal law, and integrating specialized courses into university curricula.
		9.3 Are the practical recommendations new? **1) completely new;** 2) semi-new (25-75% are new); 3) not new (less than 25% are new)	The conclusions drawn from the dissertation are **entirely novel.** The applicability of the obtained data in the relevant field of law highlights the practical significance of the research.
10.	Quality of writing and presentation	Quality of academic writing: **1) high;** 2) average; 3) below average; 4) low.	The quality of academic writing is **high,** characterized by the logical coherence of chapters, well-reasoned argumentation, strong writing skills, thoroughness, and clarity.
11.	Comments on the dissertation		The dissertation by Wang He-Yong is characterized by substantial content and is executed at a high scientific level. However, the following comments and recommendations are provided: 1. Since the dissertation is written in English, it extensively references the works of foreign scholars; however, it is recommended to incorporate the research of Kazakhstani authors as well. These remarks are advisory in nature and do not affect the overall positive assessment of the dissertation.
12.	The scientific level of the doctoral student's articles on the research topic (in the case		The main theoretical concepts, conclusions, and practical recommendations of the dissertation are presented in 16 scientific publications, including 2 articles in international journals indexed in

	of defending a dissertation in the form of a series of articles, official reviewers examine the scientific level of each doctoral student's article on the research topic)		the Scopus database; 8 articles in scientific journals recommended by the committee; 3 articles in the proceedings of international conferences; and 3 articles in other national publications.
13.	Decision of the official reviewer (in accordance with paragraph 28 of these Model Rules)		Wang He-Yong is eligible to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) under the educational program «8D04201 – International Law».

Official reviewer
Ph.D., Consultant of the Representation of the President Republic of Kazakhstan to Parliament Republic of Kazakhstan **Y.B. Akhmetov**

«____» february 2025