

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**

**International
Criminal
Court**

**SWEARING IN CEREMONY
OF THE DEPUTY PROSECUTOR OF THE ICC**

**Address by H.E. M. Felipe Paolillo
Vice-President of the Assembly of State Parties**
(English version – Originally pronounced in English)

The Hague, 3rd November 2003

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Your Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, I would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Dutch Government in hosting the Court.

For the fourth time this year we are assembled here today to witness an event of utmost significance in our relentless quest for international justice. On 11 March, with the world community watching with great optimism, the 18 judges of the International Criminal Court assumed their offices in an auspicious inaugural ceremony. On 16 June, the attention of the international community was once again drawn to The Hague as the first Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court assumed his functions. On 3 July the first Registrar of the International Criminal Court was inaugurated.

Today, we shall witness Mr. Serge Brammertz, who was elected Deputy Prosecutor by the Assembly of States Parties at its second session in September, make his solemn undertaking under the Rome Statute. All these steps, unique in their importance, constitute building blocks to the realization of the lofty, and yet achievable, ideals of the Rome Statute.

On behalf of the President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, I congratulate Deputy Prosecutor Brammertz for his election and for his expressed readiness to dedicate himself to the cause of justice. The hopes of the many victims of horrendous crimes that have numbed the human conscience who seek justice will first and foremost rest in the collective ability of the Office of the Prosecutor to investigate and establish the facts in respect of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court impartially, fairly and conscientiously. The meticulous and thorough discharge of such responsibilities is critical in the Court's overall function in determining the truth and ultimately in meting out justice. In heading the investigations within the office of the Prosecutor, the Deputy Prosecutor will not only be in the frontline of the investigative and prosecutorial effort of the Court but will also be involved in the delicate implementation of the various provisions of the Rome Statute dealing with judicial and international cooperation. Cooperation with States is fundamental to the judicial functioning of the Court, and your office will be the first to nurture and harness the confidence of States in their interaction with the Court.

In your election, the Assembly of States Parties expressed its confidence in your abilities to discharge your responsibilities and functions under the able direction of the distinguished Prosecutor independently and impartially and with respect for the confidentiality of the investigations and prosecutions. Your distinguished career in your own country speaks well for the future of the Court.

The Assembly of States Parties is determined to make international justice work. The optimism that accompanied the entry into force of the Rome Statute last year still remains heightened by the deliberate and judicious decisions that it has taken in electing high calibre men and women from all parts of the globe to the key organs of the Court. The Court is now fully functional.

The place of the International Criminal Court in the international system is already juridically secure. In the principle of complementarity, it does not desire to replace national jurisdictions. It only seeks to reinforce their ability to hold accountable those who commit egregious crimes. In its structure it is an independent and impartial judicial institution. It now desires demonstrate its ability to engage itself as a credible institution and a paragon of justice. On behalf of the President of the Assembly of States Parties, I wish Deputy Prosecutor Brammetz every success in assisting the Court in the realization of its essential role under the Rome Statute.