

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

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REMARKS TO THE TENTH SESSION
OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

New York, 12 December 2011

**Your Excellency, Lt. Gen Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of Botswana,
Your Excellency Ambassador Tiina Intelmann, President of the Assembly of States
Parties,
Your Excellency Ambassador Christian Wenaweser,
Honourable Judge Sang-Hyun Song, President of the Court,
Honourable Prosecutor, Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo,
Madam Registrar, Silvana Arbia,
Madam Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims, Elisabeth
Rehn,
Honourable judges,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**I am pleased to address you on behalf of Secretary-General BAN Ki Moon, who is
away from Headquarters on official business.**

**The Secretary-General extends his warmest wishes to all the States Parties to the
Rome Statute. He is very encouraged by the growing importance of the International
Criminal Court and its role in the fight against impunity.**

**As depositary of the Statute, the Secretary-General was delighted to
welcome Vanuatu's accession as the 120th State Party. This year also witnessed the first
ratification of the amendment to article 8 by San Marino in September. The United
Nations will continue to encourage Member States to ratify the Rome Statute and its
amendments.**

**The Secretary-General is fully aware of the challenges the Court faces, in
particular in relation to the execution of arrest warrants. He has repeatedly called
on States to enforce all outstanding arrest warrants, adhere to their obligations and
respect the resolutions of the Security Council. He will continue to support the Court as
appropriate whenever he can.**

The Secretary-General and I would both like to acknowledge the vital role that Ambassador Wenaweser has played in promoting the interests of the Court over the past three years. We also wish to congratulate Ambassador Intelmann on her election as President, and pledge our full support.

The Secretary-General and I also wish to commend Prosecutor Moreno Ocampo for his tireless efforts. He has demonstrated independence, commitment to justice and dedication to the victims of the serious crimes handled by the Court. The Secretary-General is confident that his successor, Ms. Bensouda, will continue the impressive work she has already started in her current role of Deputy Prosecutor.

As you cast your votes tomorrow for the election of six judges, I encourage you to select the best qualified candidates. The Court's credibility depends crucially on having highly qualified judges competently managing the courtroom and handing down solid and convincing judgements.

Indeed, as we look towards the delivery of the Court's first Judgment, in the Lubanga case, let us recognize that this will represent a shift in focus from the Prosecutor to the Judges. The judicial process and the judgements will be the determining factors for the Court's acceptance, and for its legitimacy as a mechanism that provides a fair trial but also ensures that those most responsible for heinous crimes do not go unpunished.

The ICC is experiencing understandable challenges in consolidating itself as part of the community of international organizations.

Yet let me be clear: the ICC is the vital and indispensable centrepiece of our system of international criminal justice. It is our best hope of ending impunity for international crimes. It is the vehicle with which our generation can significantly

advance the cause of justice and, in so doing, reduce and prevent unspeakable suffering. If we fail to support the ICC and its noble cause, we fail humanity.

The United Nations will continue to work closely with the Court. Our support includes providing services and facilities for the Court's field missions, as well as facilitating the provision of information. Our partnership is based on shared values and a mutual respect for our respective mandates and goals. We are strongly committed to strengthening what is already a productive relationship.

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, allow me to wish you success in the impending elections and in your important deliberations.

Thank you very much.

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