



Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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

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Madame President,

I should like to join other speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of the Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute. My delegation has full trust in you, confident that you will guide the work of the Assembly efficiently. In the same manner, we would like to extend our gratitude to Ambassador Christian Wenawaser, the Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein, for his outstanding leadership over the last three years.

We commend the unanimous election of an African, Mrs Fatou Bensouda, as the next Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC). We pay tribute to the outgoing Prosecutor, Mr Luis Moreno-Ocampo, for his firm leadership and tireless efforts in the quest for justice.

Madame President,

Thirteen years ago, we adopted the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court to advance the cause of justice and the rule of law. At present almost two thirds of the UN member states are parties to the Rome Statute. This steady growth in the number of States Parties clearly demonstrates the increasing political will and commitment of States to combat impunity and enforce accountability for heinous crimes. The creation of the permanent International Criminal Court constitutes a crucial step in the pursuit of justice.

We are mindful that the Ad Hoc Tribunals established by the Security Council, namely the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia are winding up their work. We are pleased to note that their rich jurisprudence is enduring and amplified by the ICC.

The ICC has become an essential instrument in the prevention of the most heinous crimes. The Court acts not only as deterrent for potential perpetrators, but its mandate sends a strong and unequivocal message to the international community that persons accused of those offences are actually brought to justice in accordance with the provisions of the law, and has contributed immensely in developing a culture of good governance and respect for human rights.

Madame President,

In executing its mandate, the ICC relies on the cooperation of States Parties, international organizations and civil societies. Such cooperation is vital for the effective implementation of the Rome Statute. The cooperation of the African region is especially critical considering that Africa has the largest number of States Parties and that all six of the Court's current cases are from Africa. Without prejudice to the independence of the Court, we urge for the improvement of relations between the Office of the Prosecutor and the African Union. We believe that the future success of the Court depends widely on improved relations with its supporters across Africa.

Madame President,

The United Republic of Tanzania reaffirms its unwavering support to fighting impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern and asserts that those implicated have to face justice. We stand ready to play our part in cooperating with the Court and supporting its work. In order to discharge its effective judicial functions effectively, we have to ensure the ICC has adequate resources, especially now that the activities of the Court are increasing. The 2012 budget cuts are likely to undermine the ability of the ICC to deliver justice in a robust manner in the existing situations under investigation and limit the ability of the court to respond to new situations as they arise. We urge the ASP to request the Security Council under article 115 (b) to cover the additional expenses resulting from situations it refers to the court.

Madame President,

In conclusion, the United Republic of Tanzania reiterates its staunch commitment to the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern, and we pledge continued cooperation with the International Criminal Court.

I thank you.