

*Ambasciata ta' Malta*



*Embassy of Malta*

Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Martin Valentino

Ambassador of MALTA

General Debate

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International Criminal Court

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*Carnegielaan 4 - 14, 2517 K H The Hague*

*Tel. (31 70) 356 1252, 360 2205*

*Fax (31 70) 3464 796*

*E-mail: maltaembassy.thehague@gov.mt*

Madame President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, my Delegation extends to you, Madame President, its congratulations and commitment to continue working and supporting you during this Eleventh session and during your term in office and wishes you every success in your task ahead. May I also warmly congratulate Judge Song on his successful re-election as President of the ICC.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the excellent work performed by the first ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Campo in the field of international criminal justice and congratulate the new Prosecutor Ms Fatou Bensouda to whom I extend my government's full support in the carrying out of her mandate.

The establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) under the Rome Statute of 1998 was a milestone in the development of international criminal law. It signalled a new coming together, internationally, to confront the worst crimes known to mankind, that in recent years have deeply shocked the international community and left a deep scar on humanity's consciousness.

Malta supports the universality and the integrity of the Rome Statute and the widest possible participation in it, in the interests of International Criminal Law. Malta supports the independence of the ICC and its effective and efficient functioning, and supports the implementation of the concept of complementarity as a core principle underpinning the system.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute and is therefore a milestone in the development of the Court. In these ten years, the Court has made steady progress in the difficult task of transforming the aspirations of the Statute into reality.

The past couple of years have thrown into stark relief the enormous challenges that lie ahead. The International Criminal Court has increasingly come to symbolize a beacon for justice. This is a heightened profile which carries with it key challenges.

First, as expectations for justice have increased, so too has the gap between these expectations and the ICC's delivery of justice. The expansion in caseload responds to very real accountability needs that crop up, however limits in the ICC's universality and capacity threaten to disappoint expectations and leave significant impunity gaps.

Second, the ICC's heightened profile also carries with it a risk of the Court being politicized. However, justice delivered by the ICC is an end in its own right. The ICC should be allowed to operate independently and without interference, regardless of shifting political considerations. The ICC should never be politicised.

