

International Criminal Court
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Statement on behalf of

Germany

by

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– Check against delivery –

Mr President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all I would like to congratulate you, Mr President, on your appointment as President of the Assembly of States Parties.

In the run-up to this Assembly you have identified four thematic axes as the focus of your presidency: relations between Africa and the ICC, cooperation with the Court, complementarity, and universality of the Rome Statute. We share your view that these topics are essential for the success of the ICC.

You may therefore rest assured that Germany is fully committed to supporting you in your important role. As an incoming member of the ASP-Bureau, Germany is particularly looking forward to cooperating closely with you. In this context I would like to thank the States Parties for entrusting Germany with the membership of the Bureau.

The German delegation would also like to thank Ambassador Intelmann for her contribution to strengthening the Court.

Mr President,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the new members of the Committee on Budget and Finance, whose indispensable work assists the States Parties on all budget-related issues.

Germany also welcomes the election of the new judges from the Republic of Korea and Poland. We are convinced that all new judges will boost the efficiency and effectiveness of the Court.

Without any doubt the commitment and professional excellence of the elected officials of the ICC are prerequisites for the Court's success. We therefore acknowledge the important work of the Advisory Committee on Nominations and also welcome the support provided by the Coalition for the ICC to the judicial election process.

Judge Hans-Peter Kaul would have been among the six judges due to finish their mandate early next year. Allow me to pay special tribute to him, as he had been a judge at the ICC since its establishment in 2002. Even before he was a relentless supporter of the idea of such a Court and had contributed greatly to the success of the Rome Conference. His untimely passing was a great loss for all of us.

Mr President,

World events in 2014 have clearly shown again the significance of a permanent criminal court in the worldwide fight against impunity.

To mention only two examples:

In May this year, the Ukrainian government issued a declaration under Article 12(3) of the Rome Statute accepting the jurisdiction of the Court over crimes allegedly committed on its territory from 21 November 2013 to 22 February 2014. Subsequently, the Office of the Prosecutor opened a preliminary examination.

In the Central African Republic Chief Prosecutor Bensouda opened a second investigation following a state referral by the transitional government in September with regard to crimes allegedly committed since August 2012.

Both cases clearly demonstrate that states, victims and civil society around the world place an enormous amount of trust in the ICC, its mandate and independent work. They are proof of the fact that accountability for international crimes is becoming a common value around the world.

Of course, the ICC and its work are not above criticism. Important progress has been made over the years. There are a number of important reform initiatives under way, including reviews by the Court's judges through the Working Group on Lessons Learnt and the Registrar's ReVision project.

In this context I would also like to commend the work of the various Working Groups in New York and The Hague, the Study Group on Governance and the Bureau.

In the course of last year Germany contributed particularly to a systematic review designed to improve the framework for proceedings before the Court.

Monsieur le Président,

Le budget annuel de la Cour a été de nouveau le sujet d'intenses débats au cours de la préparation de cette Assemblée. Comme dans le passé, le Comité pour le budget et les finances nous a soumis d'excellentes propositions.

L'Allemagne a toujours souligné et continue de le faire l'importance de mettre à la disposition de la Cour les fonds nécessaires à son bon fonctionnement.

Cependant, nous sommes aussi dans l'obligation de prendre en compte la situation économique et financière à laquelle nos Etats parties et nos citoyens se voient confrontés. C'est pourquoi l'efficacité et la bonne gestion doivent être au centre de toutes nos préoccupations. Pour le budget 2015 nous avons trouvé un bon compromis.

Pour les années à venir, nous devons tous œuvrer pour intensifier nos efforts afin d'atteindre cet objectif commun.

Pour conclure, j'aimerais attirer votre attention sur le progrès fait quant aux ratifications des amendements de Kampala. A cette date, 20 Etats parties ont déjà ratifié l'amendement sur le crime d'agression.

Nous avons toutes les raisons d'être confiants que ces amendements de Kampala pourront entrer en vigueur dès 2017. Pour atteindre cet objectif, j'encourage tous les Etats parties à ratifier Kampala aussi rapidement que possible.

Pour finir, la délégation allemande s'associe pleinement à la déclaration du représentant distingué de l'Italie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses Etats membres.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.