

GHANA



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STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED

BY

DR. DOMINIC AYINE, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
AND LEADER OF GHANA'S

DELEGATION TO THE THIRTEEN SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF
STATES PARTES TO THE ROME STATUTE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT, NEW YORK

10TH DECEMBER, 2014

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates

At the onset, I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as President of the Assembly of States Parties as well as the Vice Presidents and the new members of the bureau. As Vice President of the New York Working Group during the previous session, Ghana is very pleased to see an African lead the Assembly of States Parties for the first time and we applaud the positive role played by Ambassador Ken Kanda in leading the selection process as well as the African States Parties for their cooperation and flexibility during the process.

My delegation also extends its appreciation to the former President Tiina Intelmann for her term as President of the Assembly and wish her well in her endeavours. We also convey our appreciation to the bureau and the Secretariat for their work towards ensuring successful deliberations during the Thirteen Session of the Assembly of States Parties.

Ghana welcomes the various reports that have been made available to States Parties detailing activities throughout the year, particularly, those of the court and the various facilitations and commend their efforts.

Mr President

My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African States Parties and I wish to reiterate that Ghana remains committed to the importance of the International Criminal Court as a mechanism for punishing crimes of impunity, and also acting as a deterrent for potential perpetrators of such crimes. My delegation also reaffirms that the fundamental values of the Rome Statute and adherence to it are essential in the administration of an International Criminal Justice System and therefore, there is the need to preserve the independence of the court and also ensure that the court's activities are impartial and fair in respect of all states.

In this regard, Ghana emphasizes that continued dialogue and engagement is an essential component in addressing the challenges the court is currently facing, particularly in its relationship with African countries. In this same vein, my delegation also stresses the importance of ensuring that recruitment of staff of the court reflects a fair representation of the various regional groups and gender balance, thereby giving an equal opportunity to nationals of all States Parties to work with the court.

Mr President

As part of promoting the activities of the Court to enable it work effectively, Ghana successfully hosted a High Level Seminar on Fostering Cooperation in July this year which involved participation from other African States. During the meeting Stakeholders sought to explore options aimed at effective cooperation with the court.

Mr President

It is this commitment of my country to the rule of law and justice for perpetrators of crimes of impunity that my delegation welcomes the election of new judges who will assume duty in March, 2015 and add hope that their work will improve the quality and efficiency of the work of the court. To this end my delegation conveys its appreciation to the President and Judges whose term will end in 2015 for their remarkable contribution to the jurisprudence and practice of the court during their term.

Mr. President

My Delegation once again stresses that the key pillars and principles underpinning the Rome Statute are complementarity, cooperation, independence and impartiality of the court and indicate that Ghana as a country believes that the principle of complementarity is key to fully realizing the objectives of the framers of the Rome Statute and to this end it must be critically considered by all states parties and for those states who are capable to support others in capacity building efforts. It is in this light that my delegation welcomes your objective of working on issues related to complementarity, cooperation, universality and the improvement of the relationship between the court and the various regional groups particularly, Africa and assure you of Ghana's support in this effort.

Mr. President

Sustaining the momentum in promoting the universality of the Rome statute, thereby helping to address the challenges of the court and enable it to firmly work towards ensuring the objectives and intention that led to the framing of the Statute is

also crucial. My delegation assures of our support and readiness to assist during your term as President. We are confident that you will lead the assembly through a successful session.

I thank you.