



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

THE HAGUE

**Twentieth Session of the Assembly of the States parties to the Rome Statute
Of the International Criminal Court**

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The Hague

Plenary

“COOPERATION”

Intervention by H.E. Beti JACHEVA

**Ambassador of the Republic of North Macedonia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands
on behalf of the Republic of North Macedonia**

8 December 2021

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentleman,

Since I am taking the floor for the first time, I would like to congratulate you, Madam President of the Assembly on your election, but also, to express my congratulations to the new President of the Court, the new Prosecutor as well as the judges elected during the last session of the Assembly. On behalf of North Macedonia, we wish them every success and assure them of our support.

I would like to also welcome the plenary debate on this important issue of cooperation, as one of the key topics of ASP Agenda. In this regard, I wish to express my gratitude to the Ambassadors of France and Senegal for their continued efforts as co-facilitators on cooperation.

My country has always been a strong supporter of the ICC and is firmly committed to the independence, integrity, and efficient functioning of the Court since its creation.

We believe that the establishment of this institution, with a jurisdiction over most serious crimes is one of the biggest achievements in the development of international law and the protection of human rights, but it is also one of the main pillars in the fight against impunity. Therefore, we, as States Parties must invest continuously in its success, which depends heavily on cooperation with States and international organizations.

This is why my country has recently engaged in negotiations with the ICC and signed a voluntary cooperation agreement. I would like to convey the appreciation for the smooth cooperation with the office of the Registrar during the negotiations and signature of the Agreement. The exchanges went smoothly and in spirit of mutual confidence and understanding.

The Agreement establishes a framework for cooperation between our competent institutions and the Court, and introduces clear procedures for concluding operational agreement for each individual case, for which the competent authority has given its agreement.

We entered these negotiations following our conviction in the following: that the Court needs our full support to execute its mandate; that we have a responsibility to help in protecting the most vulnerable, as a value of the democratic world; and that we can jointly enhance the capacities in the fight against the most serious crimes of international concern.

Furthermore, I am convinced that the ICC will find a credible and serious partner in the competent institutions of North Macedonia, which in turn will be able to further develop their capacities while working with the ICC.

I would like to use this occasion to also welcome the recent signing of an Agreement on the execution of sentences between France and the ICC. In that regard, I am sure that our two countries would like to make a joint call to all the other States Parties to conclude voluntary agreements with the Court in all priority areas identified so far, including the execution of arrest warrants, voluntary cooperation, cooperation in financial investigations and freezing of assets.

In conclusion, let me reiterate the readiness of the Republic of North Macedonia to continue to provide political support, cooperate and actively participate in the activities of the International Criminal Court.

Thank you.