

Translation (Original in Arabic)



THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

ADDRESS BY H.R.H PRINCE ZEID RAAD AL HUSSEIN

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS / NEW YORK**

**FIFTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

THE HAGUE

Your Excellency,

Here in The Hague, five years ago, the world set its sights on us – the member states – in our march towards establishing a new judicial institution ushering in the rule of law. And today, we are gathered here again, having transformed our aspirations into a working reality: an international court carrying an honorable vision into the 21st century, investigating the most serious crimes of international concern, and bringing the perpetrators of these crimes to justice. Today the Court has also become a centerpiece of an emerging system of international criminal justice.

We have witnessed in the past year encouraging steps in the work of this independent institution; the first person arrested pursuant to a warrant issued by the Court, has been surrendered to the Court's custody and Pre-trial and appeals proceedings were held. The Court also managed to continue investigations and pre-trial proceedings in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Darfur, Sudan, and in this regard Jordan commends the effort undertaken by the prosecutor, and the members of his office in conducting investigations and promoting outreach activities related to investigations. We also appreciate their efforts relating to the gathering of evidence and determining facts in areas of ongoing violence, where traveling may be impossible, and in this regard Jordan re-affirms the importance of ending impunity of those who bear the responsibility in all crimes.

The Rome Statute embodies an honorable vision and high aspirations for the work of the Court. It envisions that the Court will contribute in achieving a lasting respect for the enforcement of international criminal justice. Jordan notes in this context the efforts of the Court in enhancing and improving its working methods to achieve these aspirations, and commends with appreciation, the first strategic plan adopted last year as a vital instrument for the Court's success and in realizing its aims. The Strategic plan provides a suitable framework for the Court's activities for the upcoming next years, enhances its transparency and promotes its relationship with member states and related institutions. Jordan also welcomes the prosecutorial Strategy which was harmonized with the Court's wider strategic plan, and compromised five objectives that will drive all the activities of the office's divisions.

Bridging the distance between the Court and the local communities affected by the most serious crimes and arrests will reflect positively on the work of the Court. Therefore, Jordan welcomes the Court's efforts in bringing a realistic understanding to these communities regarding its role and activities specially those related to investigations. Jordan recalls with optimism the Court's Outreach Plan and affirms the importance of communicating with all States to increase the trust of the affected communities in the international criminal justice system.

The member states must carry out the responsibility to promote this institution, and this includes the commitments to eliminate the obstacles that face the Court, and to support in its fulfillment of its mandate. We call upon all States, regional organizations, and United Nation's peace keeping missions to engage positively with the Court and to provide it with the necessary support in the field including gathering evidence, providing logistical support, relocating victims, arresting and surrendering persons and enforcing the sentences of the convicted. International co-operation is vital for the work of the Court and in this regard Jordan welcomes the establishment of the Court's Liaison office in New York.

Jordan reaffirms with determination the importance of reaching universal ratification of the Rome Statute. Jordan also believes that a functional and effective International Criminal Court, whose statute is always respected, is the national interest of every state.
