



Twenty-first session

The Hague, 5-10 December 2022

**Report of the Bureau on the Plan of action of
the Assembly of States Parties for achieving universality and
full implementation of the Rome Statute of
the International Criminal Court**

I. Introduction

1. At its fifth session, the Assembly of States Parties adopted, by consensus, the Plan of action of the Assembly of States Parties for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (hereinafter "the Plan of Action").¹

2. At its twentieth session, the Assembly of States Parties (hereinafter "the Assembly") welcomed the annual report of the Bureau on the Plan of action, endorsed the recommendations contained therein and requested the Bureau to continue to monitor the implementation of the Plan and to report thereon to the Assembly during its twenty-first session.²

3. The Plan of action calls upon States Parties to proactively make use of the political, financial and technical means at their disposal to promote the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute through bilateral, regional and multilateral relationships. Furthermore, the Plan of action calls upon the Secretariat to support States in their efforts to promote universality and full implementation of the Statute by acting as a focal point for information exchange, within existing resources, including by collecting and ensuring dissemination of such information. It also requires the Assembly, through its Bureau, to keep the Plan of action under review.

4. On 21 February 2022, the Bureau of the Assembly re-appointed the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea as *ad country* focal points to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of action.

5. The reporting period covers the period after the adoption of the previous report (ICC-ASP/20/17, November 2021) until November 2022. During this period, the *ad country* focal points conducted consultations and briefings in order to exchange information between States, Court officials, members of civil society and other interested parties.

¹ *Official Records of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Fifth session, The Hague, 23 November to 1 December 2006* (ICC-ASP/5/32), Part III, ICC-ASP/5/Res.3, annex I.

² Resolution ICC-ASP/20/Res.5 of 9 December 2021, para. 9 and annex I, para. 1.

II. Updates on efforts to promote universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute

A. Activities of the Court

6. The Court continued to contribute actively to the efforts to promote universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute in cooperation and coordination with other actors, including the President of the Assembly, the co-focal points on the Plan of Action, States Parties, regional and intergovernmental organizations, and civil society, notably the Coalition for the ICC and Parliamentarians for Global Action.

7. The easing of restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic in the spring of 2022 allowed the Court to resume physical activities such as high-level engagements with States not party to the Statute and in-person seminars, which had not been possible during the previous reporting period. At the same time, the Court also continued to make use of virtual meetings as a complementary method of communication, benefiting from the experience amassed during the pandemic.

8. With the financial support of the European Commission, the President of the Court paid a visit to Guinea-Bissau on 19 and 20 April 2022 to urge active consideration of Rome Statute ratification by the country, holding fruitful meetings with the Head of State and other high authorities from the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. During the reporting period, the President also held many other high-level meetings with States not parties with the specific purpose of promoting ratification of the Rome Statute, either in The Hague during official visits hosted by the Court, or during official travel, particularly to the seat of the United Nations in New York.

9. More generally, the principals of the Court used numerous occasions of meetings, exchanges and public speeches to draw attention to the need for increasing membership in the Rome Statute as well as its implementation in national legislation, both in terms of providing national procedures for cooperation as well as incorporating the Rome Statute crimes in national law. The Court also engaged in many technical, working-level exchanges with state officials of States not parties on questions related to the ratification of the Rome Statute.

10. With the cooperation of the Senegalese Government and the financial support of the European Commission, the Government of Senegal and the French Embassy in the Netherlands, the Court organised from 23-25 May 2022 a high-level conference in Dakar, Senegal, for Ministers of Justice from the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States and other regional stakeholders. Objectives of the conference, reflected in the programme, included promoting universal ratification and full implementation of the Rome Statute. These topics also featured in the conference organized by the Court to mark the 20th anniversary of the Statute's entry into force, on 1 July 2022.

11. The Court organized several online events to promote universal ratification of the Rome Statute, particularly in the Asia-Pacific, the most underrepresented region in the ICC system. This included the inaugural Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar of Judges on the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court held on 1 December 2021, co-hosted by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea and financially supported by the European Commission.

12. The Registry availed itself in several instances during the reporting period to provide support and technical advice to interested States engaged in a domestic process to adopt cooperation implementing legislation. While the Registry will not provide substantive advice on matters of national concern, it remains ready, when requested and when considered helpful for advancing national implementation of the Rome Statute, to participate in discussions, provide submissions to national stakeholders at the request of the State on the key elements of Part 9, and share what has been its experience and lessons learned in applying the cooperation provisions of the Statute with States Parties.

13. The Court's public information activities, notably through the ICC website and social media channels, maintained in multiple languages, and platforms of partners and influencers such as the United Nations (UN), continued to serve as a crucial tool for raising awareness

and providing access to information essential for the promotion of the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute. The Court liaises closely with UN communication teams, and in 2022 hosted a joint virtual event with UN Academic Impact, published multiple articles and stories on UN News, and displayed an exhibition at the UN in New York, all of which have enabled promoting ratification of the Rome Statute on UN platforms as a way of supporting Sustainable Development Goal 16, Peace and Justice. Throughout 2022, the Court's 20th anniversary social media campaign, which included daily posts, multiple videos and monthly Facebook Lives, was geared at fostering understanding for the Court's mandate, its unique and permanent nature, and promoting more support and cooperation. The campaign will culminate in December 2022 with a specific focus on complementarity, universality and building a more just world. In addition, with the support of the European Commission, a virtual ICC course of 15 lectures in Spanish and French has been produced for national practitioners, judges and prosecutors, culminating in the final two closing lectures on cooperation and universality; funds permitting, a version in English is expected to be produced in the coming year, and all three language versions will be featured on the ICC website.

14. The Court continued to disseminate the booklet titled "Joining the International Criminal Court – Why does it matter", which is available on the Court's website in English,³ French⁴ and Spanish,⁵ and hard copies of which can be provided upon request. A modified version tailored for the Asia-Pacific region is also available.⁶ The booklet is particularly designed to address common misconceptions and concerns about the Rome Statute and the Court, as well as highlight the benefits that joining the Statute offers to the State in question as well as to the international community as a whole. As such, the booklet seeks, *inter alia*, to support the efforts of national stakeholders advocating the ratification of the Statute in their respective countries.

15. More than 9,500 visitors, from States Parties as well as non-States Parties, visited in person or virtually the ICC and received online presentations on the Court, its mandate and current activities. These included 600 individuals who participated in 73 briefings for key stakeholders, such as lawyers, prosecutors, judges, members of parliament, journalists, junior diplomats and NGOs from various regions, including representatives of States not party to the Statute. In addition, 230 high-level delegation members of 74 high-level visits were received at the Court. Court representatives also took part in events organized by civil society actors in a national context. Judicial events and hearings have continued, at times with reduced external participation due to the COVID-19 related restrictions (around 6,000 individuals attended hearings in the period). Last but not least, the Court developed, with the financial support of the European Commission, a Virtual Visit space for its website in Arabic, *inter alia* to promote universality of the Rome Statute by raising awareness of the Court, its mandate and its legal process. Spanish, English and French were done in the previous period.

16. Under its Legal Professionals Programme (LPP) funded by the European Commission, the Court seeks to offer young and mid-career legal professionals from situation countries and developing regions an opportunity to enhance their professional skills in the field of international criminal law by working at the Court. One of the objectives of the program is to benefit the national jurisdictions of the participants, who will bring their enhanced knowledge and skills back to their domestic system upon return from the Court. During the reporting period, one person spent six months working at the Court under the LPP.

17. The free, online ICC Legal Tools Database (LTD),⁷ which is supported by the Court with the financial assistance of the European Commission, continued to be a leading international law source. The LTD plays an important role by providing free global access to international criminal law legal sources, for which there is high demand globally, including in States not party to the Statute. As such, the LTD helps promote awareness of the Court and its jurisprudence in jurisdictions that may join the Rome Statute in the future, as well as strengthen the Court's profile as a leading institution in the field, reinforcing positive

³ <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/Publications/Joining-Rome-Statute-Matters.pdf>.

⁴ <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/Publications/Joining-Rome-Statute-Matters-FRA.pdf>.

⁵ <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/Publications/Joining-Rome-Statute-Matters-SPA.pdf>.

⁶ <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2022-09/universality-asia-eng-v.11-web.pdf>.

⁷ <http://www.legal-tools.org/>.

perceptions among legal communities as a key stakeholder group. With the support of the European Commission, the Court is in the process of developing the LTD interface in additional languages to the existing English language version.

18. As part of the Legal Tools project, the Court has also developed the ICC Case Law Database (CLD), which indexes all judgments, decisions, orders and any other similar document issued by a judicial body of the ICC in an easily searchable format. In addition to the full text of the Court's jurisprudence since 2004, the CLD provides substantive analysis in the form of "legal findings", which are extracts from the legal reasoning and conclusions on key issues. The first version of the CLD was completed in July 2020 and the content grows constantly as new decisions are issued and additional jurisprudence is added by Chambers staff. While the CLD is currently available in English, French and Spanish language versions are at an advanced stage of construction and will be launched in the near future, enabling access to key ICC jurisprudence to a significantly expanded number of countries and legal communities around the world. The French and Spanish versions will initially contain only the legal findings, not the full decisions, except where available. The European Commission is financially supporting the translation of the legal findings into Spanish.

B. Activities of the President of the Assembly and the Secretariat

19. Throughout the reporting period, the President of the Assembly of States Parties, Ms. Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, held a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings where she encouraged States to become parties to the Rome Statute and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court, and stressed the importance for States to have implementing legislation at the national level. She emphasized in those meetings that the universality of the Rome Statute would promote the legitimacy of the Court and expand its jurisdiction, given that the Court can only enhance its reach through ratifications to the Statute in the absence of a referral by the United Nations Security Council.

20. The President has coordinated with Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, Ambassador Bob Rae (Canada) and Ambassador Katerina Sequensova (Czech Republic), to reach out to non-States Parties and encouraged them to consult their capitals with an aim to ratifying the Rome Statute. The Presidency of the Assembly also addressed the crucial importance of universality before major regional organizations including the European Union and the Organization of American States as well as the regional groups of States Parties in the contexts of the Assembly and the United Nations, and called for their action to further promote universality.

21. The President of the Assembly together with the President of the ICC presented at a high-level seminar on the universality of the Rome Statute and the importance of joining the International Criminal Court on 18 May 2022 in Brussels. The event was organized by the focal points on universality, the Republic of Korea and the Netherlands.

22. On 5 July 2022 the President met with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres, during which they discussed the continued engagement and cooperation of the United Nations and the main priorities of the Assembly of States Parties, including the strengthening of the Rome Statute System and achieving universal accession to the Rome Statute.

23. To mark the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute, on 1 July 2022 the President participated as a panellist during the "International Criminal Court at 20: Reflections on the Past, Present and Future" conference hosted by the Court in The Hague, during which she reflected on the experience gained by the Court in the past 20 years, the vision of the drafters of the Rome Statute and some of its key provisions, looking at how to expand the global reach of the Court. In this same tenor, on 11 July 2022 the President participated in the "International Criminal Court at 20: Reflections on the Past and vision for the future" event hosted by the Permanent Missions of Argentina, Canada, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Korea, Romania and Sierra Leone to the United Nations, during which she spoke of the establishment and first years of the Court, and how the experience garnered through its twenty years of existence have come to bear in the different aspects in which the Court supports and complements the fight against impunity.

24. The President worked closely with civil society organizations, including the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), Human Rights Watch, Open Society Justice Initiative and the American Bar Association's ICC Project, the International Bar Association, the American Society of International Law, as well as in connection with their local NGOs and focal points, to promote the environment conducive to expanding the universality of the Rome Statute.

25. The President participated in the panel "IBA Showcase: atrocity prevention – from Rwanda to Ukraine, why international law still matters" at the International Bar Association Annual Conference in Miami on 2 November 2022, during which the President reflected on the role of the ICC as a deterrent, and its relevance in achieving justice for atrocity crimes. The President also participated in the "12th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law (CAP-ICC)", on 4-5 November 2022, co-hosted by PGA and the National Congress of Argentina in Buenos Aires, during which she spoke on the objective of achieving universality of the Rome Statute and the full implementation of the Court's jurisdiction.

26. The Secretariat, for its part, continued to support the collection of information on the promotion of universality and the full implementation of the Rome Statute. As of 25 October 2022, the Secretariat had received four responses to the questionnaire concerning the Plan of action for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute. Relevant information submitted by States and international organizations can be found on the Assembly's website.⁸

C. Activities of the focal points

27. Throughout the reporting period, the initiatives of the co-focal points, continuing the work of the previous focal points, focused mainly on two categories of activities: firstly, on synergizing efforts of different stakeholders in the promotion of universality and the implementation of the Rome Statute; and secondly, on directing efforts at non-States Parties to the Rome Statute. While the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing, several activities were nevertheless undertaken in order to make progress on those categories in both areas. The most important activities are laid down below.

28. On 4 April 2022, the Permanent Representatives of the Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations hosted a dinner in New York in honour of the President of the ICC, to which a number of Pacific Islands States that are not party to the ICC were invited. The dinner was dedicated to the promotion of the universality of the Rome Statute.

29. On 18 May 2022, the co-focal points, together with the ICC and civil society organizations, hosted a high-level seminar on the Universality of the Rome Statute and the importance of joining the International Criminal Court in the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Brussels. The seminar was specifically aimed at States that are not party to the Statute and that have an embassy in Brussels, but not in The Hague. During the seminar, approximately 15 States, represented at ambassadorial level, were informed about the mandate and activities of the Court and encouraged to consult their capitals to ratify the Rome Statute. The President of the ICC, the President of the Assembly and the NGOs, the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), participated as the main panellists and had fruitful discussions with the non-States Parties through an in-depth Q&A session regarding the mandate and activities of the Court, as well as the perceptions about the Court. During the successful seminar, non-States Parties asked the co-focal points to continue to organize this type of seminar in Brussels and the co-focal points promised to continuously reach out to non-States Parties by hosting information meetings and other events.

30. On 4 July 2022, one of the focal points, the Republic of Korea, organized a luncheon meeting to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court held in Seoul. As many as seventy-three ambassadors and *chargés d'affaires* participated in the meeting. While forty-six representatives were from States Parties, there were also twenty-seven representatives from non-States Parties. Video

⁸ <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sessions/plan-of-action/2022-Plan-of-Action>

messages by the President of the ICC and the Prosecutor of the ICC, together with the keynote speech by the former ICC President Sang-Hyun Song, provided a truly meaningful opportunity for non-States Parties to better understand the mandate and activities of the Court.

D. Activities of international organizations and other organizations

31. **Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)** organized several virtual and in-person high-level meetings to advance the universal ratification and full implementation of the Rome Statute, including its global Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the ICC and the Rule of Law. The Assembly took place in a hybrid format in Buenos Aires and brought together around 200 participants, including parliamentarians from over 70 countries and resulted in several concrete action plans towards the advancement of the ratification.

32. Since the February full-scale invasion of Ukraine, PGA intensified its work with its Ukrainian members, and organized several events aimed at urging Ukrainian leaders to proceed with the ratification of the Rome Statute, to ensure its effective domestication, and to incite States to support the PGA-proposed amendment on the crime of aggression which would enable the ICC to try the crimes of aggression committed in Ukraine. In June, PGA organized a visit of a parliamentary delegation of Ukraine to the ICC to meet the ICC officials and participate in the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the ICC. In 2022, PGA took part in important events that brought together representatives of the ICC non-party States and stressed the importance of strengthening the universality of the Rome Statute system. This included its involvement in technical working meetings of the Organization of American States (OAS), in which a parliamentarian from Ecuador took part, as well as addressing the high-level seminar on the Universality of the Rome Statute organized by the focal points on Universality, the Republic of Korea and the Netherlands, on 18 May 2022 in Brussels. During the visit of the President of the ICC to Guinea Bissau, PGA facilitated the organization of his meetings with the parliamentarians and Government officials. Finally, PGA continued to provide technical assistance to its members on the full implementation of the Statute and the adoption of all amendments, which led to the ratification by Italy, Peru, and Sweden of the Kampala Amendments on the crime of aggression and war crimes.

33. The **Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)** continued working on its central mandate to advance the universal ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC around the world. Activities undertaken by the Coalition include activities by member organizations – which often work under the umbrella of National Coalitions for the ICC – as well as activities undertaken by the Coalition’s International Secretariat.

34. In 2022, the CICC promoted universality under the framework of the 20th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute around the world. The focus of the CICC in 2022 included efforts to advance ratifications of the Rome Statute including in Iraq, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Ukraine.

35. Throughout 2022, the Coalition’s International Secretariat has continued to coordinate with, and to support the initiatives on universality of the Presidency of the ICC, the ASP President, the ASP focal points on universality and States Parties, as well as the European Union in its demarches and efforts to advance ratifications to the Rome Statute.

36. The CICC also collaborated with the initiative Asymmetrical Haircuts on a special podcast episode highlighting the work of CICC members for a universal court. The podcast discussion featured the activities of civil society from Ukraine and the Philippines. The script of the podcast is available in English, French and Spanish.⁹

37. The CICC Secretariat Director highlighted the role of civil society to advance the universality of the Rome Statute at the conference organized by the International Criminal Court which was held on the occasion of the ICC’s 20th anniversary conference, “International Criminal Court at 20: Reflections on the Past, Present and the Future”.¹⁰

⁹ <https://coalitionfortheicc.org/news/20220623/coalition-marks-20th-anniversary-entry-force-rome-statute> (in English).

¹⁰ See intervention by the CICC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXeRx6TSowU>.

III. Recommendations

38. In general, there is a continuing need for further sustained efforts in promoting the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court. Many activities are already being undertaken on an on-going basis, and the scope for better coordination and identification of possible synergies as well as more systematic follow-up on initiatives should be explored further. Enhanced use of ICT and social media could play an important role in this regard, in particular when reaching out to academia and students, building on existing initiatives. Against this background, the following recommendations are made:

A. To the Assembly of States Parties

1. To continue to monitor closely the implementation of the Plan of action.

B. To the States Parties

2. To continue to promote, as far as possible, the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute in their bilateral, regional and multilateral relationships, including enhancing the cooperation between international and regional organizations and the Court;
3. To continue their efforts to disseminate information on the Court at the national, regional and international level, including through events, seminars, publications, courses and other initiatives that may raise awareness about the work of the Court;
4. To continue to provide the Secretariat with updated information relevant to the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute, including current contact information on national focal points;
5. To continue to promote, as far as possible, the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute in collaboration with the Court, civil society, academia, international organizations and professional organizations;
6. To organize, in conjunction with the Court, civil society, academia, international organizations and professional associations, seminars, panel discussions and events focusing on promoting the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute, in New York, in The Hague and in different regions, and to disseminate information about the Court's work and the provisions of the Rome Statute;
7. To continue to provide, wherever possible, technical and financial assistance to States wishing to become party to the Statute and to those wishing to implement the Statute in their national legislation;
8. To provide financial and/or other support, wherever possible, to civil society, academia, international organizations and professional associations that provide technical assistance to overcome the challenges to ratification and implementation identified in this report;
9. To continue to contribute to the Trust Fund for Least Developed Countries and other developing States to promote the attendance of States not party to the sessions of the Assembly; and
10. To continue to cooperate with the Court so that it can fulfil its functions accordingly.

C. To the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties

11. To continue to support States in their efforts to promote the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute by acting as a focal point for information exchange and by making available updated information on this matter, including on the website of the Court;
12. To compile information on all available resources and potential donors, and post it on the Court's website for easy access by States; and
13. To prepare a matrix to serve the purpose of enhanced information-sharing between potential recipients and donors of technical assistance.

Annex

Draft language to be included in the omnibus resolution

A. Universality of the Rome Statute

1. *Invites* States not yet parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to become parties to the Rome Statute, as amended, as soon as possible and *calls upon* all States Parties to intensify their efforts to promote universality;
2. *Notes with deep regret* the notification of withdrawal submitted by a State Party under article 127(1) of the Statute on 17 March 2018 as well as the withdrawal of its instrument of accession by another State on 29 April 2019, and *calls upon* these States to reconsider these withdrawals;¹
3. Welcomes with appreciation also the continuation by the President of the Assembly of the dialogue on the “Relationship between Africa and the International Criminal Court” initiated by the Bureau during the fifteenth session of the Assembly of States Parties, and invites the Bureau to further widen and deepen this dialogue as needed with all interested State Parties;
4. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken to celebrate 17 July as the Day of International Criminal Justice² as well as those to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute³ and *recommends* that, on the basis of lessons learnt, all relevant stakeholders, together with the Court, continue to engage in preparation of appropriate activities and share information with other stakeholders to that effect through the Secretariat of the Assembly⁴ and otherwise;
5. *Calls upon* all international and regional organizations as well as civil society to intensify their efforts to promote universality;
6. *Decides* to keep the status of ratifications under review and to monitor developments in the field of implementing legislation, inter alia with a view to facilitating the provision of technical assistance that States Parties to the Rome Statute, or States wishing to become parties thereto, may wish to request from other States Parties or institutions in relevant areas, and *calls upon* States to annually provide the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties with updated information about actions and activities in support of international justice, as per the Plan of Action (paragraph 6(h));⁵
7. *Recalls* that the ratification of the Rome Statute must be matched by national implementation of the obligations emanating therefrom, notably through implementing legislation, in particular in the areas of criminal law, criminal procedural law, and international cooperation and judicial assistance with the Court and, in this regard, *urges* States Parties to the Rome Statute that have not yet done so to adopt such implementing legislation as a priority and *encourages* the adoption of victims-related provisions, as and when appropriate;
8. *Welcomes* the report of the Bureau on the Plan of action for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute⁶ and *notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Court’s President, the Office of the Prosecutor, the President of the Assembly, the Assembly, States Parties and civil society to enhance the effectiveness of universality-related efforts and to encourage States to become parties to the Rome Statute, as amended, and to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities, as well as relevant efforts undertaken in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council;

¹ Depository Notification C.N.138.2018.TREATIES-XVIII.10, see at: <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2018/CN.138.2018-Eng.pdf>.

² *Official Records... Review Conference...* 2010 (RC/11), part II.B, Kampala declaration (RC/Decl.1), para 12.

³ See ICC – Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties at: <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/asp-events/20a-Entry-Force>

⁴ See ICC – Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties at https://asp.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/asp/asp%20events/ICJD/Pages/default.aspx.

⁵ ICC-ASP/5/Res.3, annex I.

⁶ ICC-ASP/21/21.

9. *Recalls* rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of States Parties, *endorses* the Bureau decision of 18 October 2017 whereby it adopted an Understanding on the Participation of Observer States in Meetings of the Assembly of States Parties,⁷ and *underscores* the importance of promoting universality of the Rome Statute and of strengthening the openness and transparency of the Assembly;

B. Mandates of the Assembly of States Parties for the intersessional period

(a) *endorses* the recommendations of the report of the Bureau on the Plan of action for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute; and

(b) *requests* the Bureau to continue to monitor the implementation of the Plan of action for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute and to report thereon to the Assembly at its **twenty-second** session;

⁷ See: Agenda and decisions of the sixth meeting of the Bureau, annex II, appendix:
https://asp.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/asp_docs/Bureau/ICC-ASP-2017-Bureau-06.pdf.