



International Criminal Court

Twentieth-first Session of the Assembly of
States Parties

General Debate

Communication from

His Excellency the Prosecutor General of the Republic

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The Hague, December 2022

Madam President

Excellences, distinguished delegates and representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations

I am honored to once again address the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute.

Allow me to begin by greeting the President and her team for the work that they have been carrying out in the presidency and extend this greeting to the President of the Court, the Prosecutor and the Secretary, and also to congratulate in a special way the Deputy Prosecutors on their election on the twentieth session of the Assembly of States Parties, wishing you many successes.

Madam President,

The Twentieth-first Assembly of States Parties is a unique and historic milestone for the International Criminal Court, because in this Assembly we will symbolically celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the only permanent and universal Court, which, by the values it represents, is fundamental for the realization of international justice.

Timor-Leste knows, from experience, what serious international crimes are and how difficult and sensitive it is to achieve justice, without which sustainable and lasting peace is not possible.

Therefore, on this occasion, we would like to reaffirm that Timor-Leste is a firm defender of the International Criminal Court, is committed to promoting the rule of law, to the fight against impunity for those responsible for the most serious international crimes and in favor of achieving justice and reparation for victims of the most atrocious crimes against international law.

The criminal accountability of those who committed serious international crimes, respecting the right of defense, is certainly an essential instrument for promoting justice and world peace, but it also implies that the use of force is prohibited and does not pay.

Madam President

The International Criminal Court has been confronted with new and complex challenges that require responses that reaffirm the values it represents.

Today more than ever it is fundamental that States Parties remain unwavering in their support of the Court and international law, and that they engage in a spirit of constructive dialogue in

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order to adapt the Court to the needs and challenges of the contemporary world, making it more effective and with tangible results.

In this sense, the report of the independent experts presented at the last General Assembly not only identifies the challenges that the Court is faced with, but also presents specific recommendations, being, therefore, an excellent working instrument, which must be considered by the States Parties within the scope of a comprehensive and constructive dialogue, aware that it is the responsibility of the States Parties to guarantee the conditions for the Court to fulfill its noble mission more effectively and efficiently.

We would highlight as one of these important challenges the need for greater speed in investigations, prosecution and trials. In this context, the recommendations are relevant and should deserve the attention of the Court and the States Parties.

The challenge of more States joining the Rome Statute, materializing the pillar of universality, cannot be separated from the reforms that the independent experts' report identifies and recommends, because only by creating the conditions to make the Court faster, more effective and efficient and improving the cooperation with States Parties and States that accept its jurisdiction will make it possible to give the Court even more credibility and thus persuade States not Parties to join to the Rome Statute.

Madam President,

Allow me to conclude by reaffirming Timor-Leste's full willingness to cooperate closely with the Court and to work with the Presidency and all delegations so that we can achieve positive results, which at the same time preserve the independence and integrity of the Court and, make it more efficient and effective and contribute to the much-desired universalization of the Rome Statute.

Thank you very much.