



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Jean-Marc Hoscheit (Luxembourg)
On behalf of the Assembly of States Parties**

Day of International Criminal Justice - 17 July

6 July 2012

Judge Sang-Hyun Song, President of the Court &
Members of the Court
Mme. Silvana Arbia, Registrar
Staff of the Court
Representatives of States and of civil society
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to address you on this occasion to mark the Day of International Criminal Justice 2012. You may recall that, at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute in Kampala, States Parties adopted by consensus the Kampala Declaration in which they decided, among many other things, to celebrate 17 July as the Day of International Criminal Justice.

The celebration of the Day of International Criminal Justice in 2012 takes place during the year that the international community session marks the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute. The adoption of the Statute on 17 July 1998 was a historic achievement that established a permanent international criminal court that constitutes a strong instrument in the fight against impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of international concern – genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression.

This is the second year in which the Day of International Criminal Justice is being celebrated and it is an opportune moment for all actors to renew their commitment to the cause of eradicating from our shared earth the scourge of these serious crimes that shake the conscience of mankind, and for ensuring justice for the victims of these crimes.

It is also an appropriate time for reflection on the achievements of the Court during the past ten years. The Court has grown as an institution, both in maturity and in size. It has developed on the basis of its experience, and also learnt from other international criminal tribunals. An important innovation of the Rome Statute, that is, the participation of victims in proceedings, is being developed, as well as many other areas. The Court has delivered its first verdict, and the verdict in its second case is awaited. The growing number of States Parties, which now stands at 121, is testimony to the increasing acceptance of the Court. The unanimous referral by the Security Council of the situation in Libya underlines the growing trust of the international community in the work of the Court. It also illustrates that the pursuits of peace and justice are clearly not incompatible. Only yesterday, the Security Council released as press statement on the contribution of Courts and Tribunals in the fight against impunity from which I would like to quote two short sentences which emphasize the importance this body attaches to this issue:

“The members of the Security Council recall the contribution of the ad hoc and mixed tribunals, the International Criminal Court, as well as chambers in national tribunals in the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community...

The members of the Security Council reiterate their previous call on the importance of State cooperation with these Courts and tribunals in accordance with states respective obligations”.

(Security Council Press Statement on the contribution of Courts & Tribunals in the fight against impunity (5.7.12))

The achievement of international justice faces challenges, however, in areas such as cooperation, victims’ participation, and financing. I believe that States Parties, working together with the Court, can and should overcome these challenges. In this context, let me stress my great satisfaction on the release, beginning of this week, of the four ICC colleagues, an event which also demonstrated the strong cooperation established between the Court and State parties concerned.

In order to ensure the necessary visibility and public support to the fight against impunity I have no doubt that all relevant stakeholders, including the other international criminal tribunals, States Parties, civil society, academia, professional associations, all of whom are crucial actors

in ensuring international justice, will also play their part in celebrating this important occasion.

As we launch the Day of International Criminal Justice, I would like to take this opportunity to also encourage all stakeholders to become actively involved in the celebration of the tenth anniversary, as I see these two celebrations as being linked.

The Day of International Criminal Justice is a perfect occasion to demonstrate that the commitment to the fight against impunity is stronger than ever. It is therefore my privilege and honour to open this special ceremony today to launch the celebration of the second Day of International Criminal Justice.

The Hague, 6 July 2012
