



Statement of H.E. Mihai Gribincea, Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, on the occasion of the welcoming ceremony for the Republic of Moldova

International Criminal Court

The Hague, 11 February 2011

Mr. President, Judges, Ambassador, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, allow me to thank you for organizing this warm and pleasant welcoming ceremony, which highlights once again the importance of the international system of justice. This event is of symbolic value to my country, as the Republic of Moldova has become the 114th State Party to the Rome Statute.

It is a great honor for me to represent my country today, as the Republic of Moldova becomes a full-fledged State Party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The ratification of this international instrument by my country, highlights' the importance that is given to the respect of human rights, not only on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, but also of nations from across the world. We consider that this was a long due "maturity" test that is finally fulfilled by the Republic of Moldova.

As you may be aware, the European integration objective of the Republic of Moldova is of utmost importance to my country. Hereby, given the fact that all EU member-states are also party to the Rome Statute, the ratification of this instrument by the Republic of Moldova is an important step that brings us closer to the European Union.

Following this line, it is a pleasure for me to inform the fellow audience that the Republic of Moldova registered important accomplishments on its way towards European integration, which include concrete actions that are

undertaken in the adjustment of the national policies of the Republic of Moldova to the standards of the European Union in the areas of justice and home affairs.

The ICC represents an important milestone in the efforts of the international community to safeguard the rights of the weak from across the world, as it represents not only an effective instrument for doing justice, but also an instrument for the encouragement of peace.

I am honored that today the Republic of Moldova is part of the community of states that have a firm attitude against genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. However, we do acknowledge that this is only the beginning of the path towards the strengthening of universal justice.

Hereby, let me assure you, of the readiness for full participation of the Republic of Moldova in the international efforts for the establishment of a common system of international criminal justice and strengthening of international security. The Republic of Moldova is looking forward to duly implement the provisions of the Rome Statute into national legislation and will ensure active cooperation with the ICC, according to the principle of complementarity and promotion of the rule of law on the national level.

The Republic of Moldova would like to use this opportunity to call for other countries to accede to the ICC, as well as for the ratification of the Rome Statute by those States that have already signed to it.

We look forward to our cooperation with you.

Thank you for your attention.