



Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have come here today to present to His Excellency, President Wade, an overview of the judicial activities undertaken by the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court.

I am most grateful for the trust that His Excellency has demonstrated. The Court needs President Wade; as a legal expert, a professor and a statesman, he enjoys unrivalled respect in Africa and the world.

I have also come here to pay special tribute to our first State Party. Senegal was the first country in the world to ratify the Court's Statute: Europe, Canada and now one hundred and eight countries in all have followed suit.

Senegalese democracy and its democratic changeovers demonstrate that the rule of law promotes development and security.

I am also grateful to Senegal for making Mr Amady Ba, one of your distinguished judges, available to my Office.

Through various initiatives, the African Union, Senegal, and President Wade and the other African leaders are transforming the continent.

The situation in Darfur is at present one of our primary challenges.

President Wade and the other African leaders have responsibilities in Darfur that are of a political nature. My mandate is a legal one. My duty is to uncover the truth about the crimes. It is African women that are being raped in Darfur. It is African children that are being killed in Darfur. It is African peacekeepers that are dying in Darfur. It is therefore the countries within the region that may be able to resolve this situation.

The International Criminal Court is your court. I am your Prosecutor. Each of us has our own role to play but we all share a common goal: protecting the victims, stopping the crimes, ending impunity.

Following my meeting with President WADE, I am convinced, more than ever, that this is within the realms of possibility.

Thank you.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo  
ICC Prosecutor