

EMANUELLE DUVERGER: [Interpretation] Mr. Prosecutor, I would like to concur with the numerous congratulations addressed to you and thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak at this forum.

Those who drafted the Statute gave a major importance to the victims in proceedings initiated before the Court. By doing so, obviously they realise that international justice could be successful in its mission only if the victims were part and parcel of the determination to restore the order broken by terribly egregious crimes. The place that is given to the victim and to the victim's rights institutes a radical departure, but in order for the victim to ensure that his or her rights are defended, it must be protected.

The protection of rights of victims can come in different forms. Many of those are detailed at length in the Rules of Evidence and in the Statute. But in order to ensure protection, of course it is necessary for the victims to have access to the Court and learn or know how to use it; to be clear, that the victims be adequately informed. If the victims are adequately informed of their rights, they will have greater opportunity to claim them and take part in the proceedings.

The victims of international crimes are in a situation of extreme vulnerability both from a material and psychological point of view, which often prevents them from determining who they could turn to in order to obtain help. This is the reason why it will be necessary - it is already necessary - for the ICC to give guidance to victims in the arcane proceedings and procedures of the Court.

The organisations I represent here, De ma glace and Reporters Without Frontiers, are particularly concerned with these aspects. This is why we noted with a great deal of interest the efforts which the Office of the Prosecutor intends to initiate in order to accompany the victims who are all strangers of the proceedings.

In order to make information as accessible as possible, De ma glace and Reporters Without Frontiers have prepared a practical guide for the victims. The objective of this guide is to make accessible to all the initial steps to be taken when one has been the victim of a crime that falls within the jurisdiction of the Court, by explaining the basic principles of operation of the Court and the various stages of procedure.

NGOs, in cooperation with the Court, will have a crucial role to play in the dissemination of information. We can also count on the deterrent and thus preventive role that publicity given to the functioning of the Court will ensure, and this is why in order to effectively protect victims up and downstream, it is also necessary for the Office of the Prosecutor, in consultation with NGOs, with international institutions and with regional institutions, that they ensure a broader dissemination of the rules that preside over the participation and proceedings of the Court.

You may count on our support, Mr. Prosecutor. We wish you all the success in your new function.

Thank you very much.