



THE GAMBIA

Check Against Delivery

STATEMENT

BY

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&
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AT THE

**TENTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME
STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

NEW YORK
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**Madame President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

At the outset allow me to welcome all delegates to the 10th Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court. This is not just another session of the Assembly. We have elected a distinguished personality to one of the most important offices of the Court – i.e. the Office of the Prosecutor. The importance of the personality that occupies the office found expression in the very unique identification process the Assembly embarked upon.

Madame President,

At this juncture allow me to single out Ambassador Christian Wenawaser, President of the ASP for his excellent leadership in facilitating the process. It has been a long, rigorous and arduous process, but a process that gave all stakeholders the opportunity to be heard, and own the outcome. In spite of the challenges that the Search Committee faced in its work, we can all look back and say they did a great job. We sincerely thank them for producing a shortlist of eminently qualified candidates.

Madame President,

Allow me to also thank the group of five Ambassadors, who under the guidance of the President, were able to consult and get all states parties to agree on a consensus candidate. Their task was unenviable but they facilitated the delivery of an outcome that we are all happy with. It was an extraordinary display of cooperation among all stakeholders from Governments to civil society, individuals and other interest groups that led to this great outcome. It is our hope that we will all draw useful lessons from the process.

Madame President,

Allow me to express my gratitude to all states parties for the support they rendered to the search process and for endorsing Mrs. Fatou B. Bensouda, as the next Prosecutor. We pay tribute to Mr. Luis Moreno-Ocampo for his leadership and his enduring efforts toward ending impunity. We have no doubt that under the leadership of Mrs. Fatou B. Bensouda, the Office of the Prosecutor will continue to consolidate best practices and lessons learned over the years. She is the Prosecutor-elect of all states parties.

Madame President,

The Office of the Prosecutor will continue to need the unflinching support and cooperation of all states parties in its drive to ending impunity, bringing culprits to justice and delivering justice to defenseless victims. Allow me to congratulate the Prosecutor-elect sincerely on this well-deserved election.

I thank you.