



UGANDA

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STATEMENT BY

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**AT THE 10TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF
STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE OF
THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT 14th
DECEMBER 2011, UNITED NATIONS
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New York, December 14, 2011

Your Excellency Ambassador Tiina Intelmann, President of the Assembly of States Parties,
Excellency President Song,

The Prosecutor,

Honourable Ministers,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

It is an honour for me to address this 10th session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

At the outset, I take this opportunity to warmly congratulate you Madam President upon your election as President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC. I wish to assure you of Uganda's total support during your tenure and reiterate Uganda's commitment to assisting the work of the bureau.

I align my delegation with the statement of the African Group.

Madam President

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the outgoing President of the Assembly, Amb. Christian Wenaweser for having successfully steered the business of the Assembly during his tenure and also for his invaluable contribution to the development of the ICC as an institution. We in Uganda are indebted for his support and cooperation during the first ever Review Conference of the Rome Statute in 2010 which we had the singular honour of hosting.

We also pay tribute to Mr. Luis Moreno-Ocampo for his outstanding performance as the first Prosecutor of the ICC and, in particular, for his role in the quest for justice for the people of northern Uganda over the last 8 years. Mr. Ocampo joins a distinguished line of jurists in the annals of history of international criminal justice. We wish him all the success in his future endeavours. It is my distinct honour and pleasure to congratulate the first African Woman Prosecutor of the ICC, Ms. Fatou Bensouda upon her election. We entreat all the States Parties for their unanimous support to her.

Madam President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Uganda is happy to note that the ICC continues to forge an indisputable path toward universality. In this regard, we join others before us in congratulating all countries that become States Parties to the Rome Statute since the last session. We call upon all states will follow suit.

Madam President

Uganda remains steadfast in its commitment to the ICC and its ideals. This commitment is borne out of the conviction that the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes is not an option but an obligation and, that this fight can only make sense through a global justice system. We pledge to continue to play our part. In this regard, the International Criminal Division of the High Court of Uganda bears testimony to the efficacy of the principle of complementarity. Uganda has benefitted from close cooperation with the ICC and in particular, with the Office of The Prosecutor. Uganda has benefitted from training, capacity building and other important aspects of cooperation with the ICC.

Madam President,

My government is conscious of the global economic situation and therefore the need for everyone including the Court to operate as efficiently as possible. One area which we very strongly should remain a core activity of the Court is outreach, which is extremely important especially in new situations. Without the ability to reach out, the Court will not have the same level of visibility, acceptance and cooperation with states and peoples.

Certainly there are areas where savings could be made. The Court could take advantage of the already trained expert assistance that is available, especially in the area of investigations. For instance, Justice Rapid Response (JRR) has built up a large standing capacity of criminal justice professionals who are rapidly deployable on a short term basis to assist the Court when needed. This would allow the Court to have a surge capacity that responds in real time which will be especially useful in unforeseen situations. This is all the more important for situations in countries that have constrained capacity for forensic investigations and securing of evidence.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.

I thank you.