



BANGLADESH

Please check against delivery

**Statement by
H.E. Mr. Muhammad Ali Sorcar, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Netherlands, at the
11th Session of the Assembly of States Parties of the Rome Statute
The Hague, Netherlands, 15 November 2011**

Madam President,

Let me felicitate you on your stewardship of the eleventh session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute. We are confident that under your able guidance, the conduct of business of the session will come to a successful conclusion.

We also take the opportunity to express to the host Government of ICC, the Netherlands, for the arrangement of the event yesterday, which beautifully and befittingly commemorated the 10th anniversary of entry into force of the Rome Statute, in the Hall of the Knights, and in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen.

Madam President,

Let me reiterate, on this occasion, how deeply Bangladesh is committed to the purpose and principles of the Rome Statute. We deeply identify ourselves to the collective conscience of mankind that led to the elaboration of the Rome Statute and an end to the impunity of crime against humanity and war crimes. We had since been at the forefront of the global campaign for the early adoption of the Statute and the establishment of an International Criminal Court. Our conviction to such an instrument has been as old as the struggle that led to our independence more than four decades years ago, if not from before. The ongoing effort of the Bangladesh Government to bring to justice those who committed war crimes during the 1971 War of Liberation of Bangladesh is a natural expression of intention of the people of Bangladesh to end the culture of impunity to crimes against humanity. We believe that such atrocities destroy harmony, tear apart the social fabric, and give rise to wounds that do not heal easily. In the pursuit of peace, it is therefore important that criminals are brought to justice in all such cases. It is even more important for all to see that such gross violation of human rights, wherever it is done in the world, and however mighty the perpetrator is, is no longer immune. Such crimes do not go unnoticed or unpunished.

We have deep conviction that only a sound international mechanism can prevent future instances of crimes against humanity as has been elaborated in the Rome Statute. This is where the contribution of the ICC is paramount. It is through the ICC that the collective consciousness of mankind is expressed and the rule of law transcends boundaries.

Madam President,

Bangladesh expresses its unequivocal commitment to the International Criminal Court and the evolving system of international criminal justice. We are delighted that the work of the ICC has increasingly being noted by the global community. No one can now ignore the long shadow of the Court. From now those who are in position and inclination to abuse power will have at the back of their mind that a permanent tribunal is now in existence that is capable of bring the perpetrators of the world's most heinous crimes to justice. The days of reckless decision making in gross violations of human rights are now over.

Madam President,

The issue of financial constraints have come again and again in relation to the ICC. While we are sensitive to budgetary matters, it is also the responsibility of the member states to see that the Court's ability to work does not suffer due to overambitious consciousness over budgets. We have heard yesterday that considerable financial prudence had been achieved and continued to be pursued by the ICC. We cannot but note the Prosecutor's poignant comment that further cuts will go deeper hurt touch the bones, meaning any more austerity measure will hurt the structure of the ICC. This will hurt the very purpose of the ICC. We all have responsibility to support an institution that we have loaded so much with mandate and from which we expect so much to be instrumental to end the era of impunity.

I thank you, Madam President.