

**STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF MEXICO
GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 11TH ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO
THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

The Hague, November 15, 2012.

Madame President,

Allow me to begin by conveying to you Mexico's appreciation for your effective and committed work as President of the Assembly of States Parties of the Rome Statute during this first year of your term.

We welcome and congratulate Guatemala's recent ratification of the Rome Statute, which makes us now 121 States Parties.

We congratulate President Sang-Hyun Song for his well-deserved re-election as President of the Court in March, and we welcome the six new judges who recently assumed their high judicial responsibilities.

We also welcome Ms. Fatou Bensouda as Prosecutor of the Court since June. We are fully confident that her capacity and commitment will ensure the best of successes in her endeavours.

Distinguished Judges and Prosecutor, you can count on Mexico's full support in your tasks.

Madame President,

2012 is an emblematic year for the international community as far as international criminal justice is concerned.

The entry into force of the Rome Statute in 2002 was a historical step forward in the common efforts to fight impunity for the most atrocious international crimes. Today, while commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Rome Statute, we can affirm that international criminal justice is already a tangible reality for millions of victims of these grave crimes in the world.

We acknowledge that the initial accomplishments have been gradual. Nevertheless, we are convinced that these have built solid bases so that the Court may render increasingly efficient judicial results in the months and years to come.

Madame President,

Undoubtedly the main obstacle for the effectiveness of the Court's work is the lack of cooperation by States. This action threatens the effectiveness of the system and perpetuates the unacceptable impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern.

The results achieved in 2012 confirm the need for more and stricter measures. We are convinced, in this regard, of the important need for the UN Security Council to provide adequate follow-up to the cases of lack of cooperation informed to it by the Court, in the framework of situations referred by the Council.

It is also essential to develop effective mechanisms allowing the identification and freezing of assets from those individuals responsible of committing crimes under the Statute.

Madame President,

Secondly, I would like to address a crucial challenge for the effective consolidation of the Court, which is the allocation of sufficient resources to this Tribunal.

This Assembly, as the organ entrusted with examining and deciding the budget of the Court, has the delicate responsibility of providing it with enough tools for the effective fulfilment of its mandate.

The workload of the Court is rising. Mexico reaffirms today: we cannot expect the Court to respond efficiently to greater responsibilities, with fewer resources.

During the complex negotiations on budget that this Assembly will hold on the next few days, Mexico calls for a constructive and responsible dialogue so that we may endow the Court with an adequate and sufficient budget to fulfil its mandate.

Given the financial challenge that the Court faces for 2013, mainly in its operating expenses, and responding to the call for extraordinary contributions, Mexico has transmitted to the President of the Court and the Registry the decision of my government to submit a financial contribution to the payment of the rent of the provisional premises of this Tribunal. Nevertheless, we shall bear in mind that these measures are exceptional, and that this Assembly needs to find a long run solution that may guarantee an adequate funding of the Court.

In this regard, we are convinced of the need for the United Nations General Assembly to implement article 115 of the Rome Statute in order to allocate to the Court the sufficient resources to fund the expenses related to situations referred by the Security Council.

Madame President,

As the report of the Court rightly observes, the consolidation of international criminal justice entails the firm and constant political support of States and international organisations.

Mexico is and has been an active promoter of the work of the Court. This year, Mexico presented once again in the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States a resolution that promotes the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute, as well as the cooperation of the countries of the region with the Court, which was adopted by consensus.

On this tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute, Mexico reaffirms its commitment to continue promoting the universalization and the full consolidation of the international criminal justice system. The dialogue and cooperation of the international community are essential to achieve these purposes, while fully respecting the judicial independence of the Court.

Thank you Madame President.