



THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

STATEMENT BY H.E. VESELA MRĐEN KORAC REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA AT THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT The Hague, 21 November 2013

Madam President of the Assembly
Mr. President of the Court
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates

Croatia would like to commend you, Madam President, on all of your efforts and activities during this important year, especially on promoting the universality and integrity of the Rome Statute. Also, we would like to praise the excellent work of: the Vice President of the Assembly; the Bureau, the Secretariat, the Facilitators, both WG of the Bureau and last but not least the very active and valuable work of civil society organizations.

Here, I would like to express the strong commitment of the Delegation of the Republic of Croatia to making a constructive contribution in our common endeavour to achieve successful conclusions of this session.

At the outset I would like to align with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Lithuania on behalf of the European Union and besides, let me add Madame President, a few additional remarks in my national capacity.

Croatia strongly supports the universality of the Rome Statute and would like to welcome our new member Cote d'Ivoire. Through its diplomatic activities, Croatia has been advocating full implementation of the Rome Statute and creation of adequate mechanisms by which cooperation between the State Parties and the Court will be ensured.

We think that the best way of promoting such a high cause is by showing our own example. Therefore, Croatia has already secured the necessary legal framework for an effective implementation of the Rome Statute and a realisation of full cooperation with the International Criminal Court, as well as complementary interaction between the national criminal legislation and the Court.

The new Croatian Criminal Code adopted in 2011, already introduced the definition of the crime of aggression in accordance with the Kampala definition. Furthermore, I have the pleasure to inform you that Croatian Parliament approved and confirmed the ratification of the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute on November 8, 2013, thus the depositing of the instrument of ratification is to be expected very soon, most probably before the end of 2013.

Croatia's own experience has taught us of the value and importance of international justice and the continuous fight against impunity. In support of peace, stability and reconciliation, Croatia stands ready to provide criminal justice expertise to the States willing to investigate Rome Statute crimes under their jurisdictions as well as to identify specific capacity gaps in their investigative and prosecutorial systems. In that regard Croatia considers both international and regional cooperation of its utmost importance.

Croatia supports the integrity, independence and efficient functioning of the Court and in that context, I have had the honour to be engaged as a Facilitator for Strategic Planning. I would like to thank to the State Parties for their strong support and at the same time I would like to thank to the Principals of the Court for their open and partnership approach that enabled us to structure our dialogue in a way of finding such a needed link between the strategic planning and budgetary process. Here, I would like to welcome the Strategic Plan of the Court, the Strategic Plan of the Office of the Prosecutor as well as related work of the Committee on Budget and Finances. In addition, I would like to stress the importance of the newly established strategic dialogue between the Registrar and the Prosecutor on priority issues such as field operations and communication strategies.

At the end, I would like to emphasise that the dialogue between all stakeholders is certainly the best guarantee of the universality of the Rome Statute and in this context Croatia welcomes the "Special Segment as requested by the African Union" to be integrated in the agenda of this Assembly.

Croatia is looking forward to the outcome that would enable us to continue with our common efforts in protecting and strengthening the fundamental principles on which the ICC was founded.

Thank you.