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Statement by Mr. Kim Inchul
Representative of the Republic of Korea
At the Twelfth Session of the Assembly of States Parties
to the International Criminal Court

November 20, 2013

Thank you, Madame President,

At the outset, the delegation of the Republic of Korea wishes to express its deep appreciation to President Judge Sang-Hyun Song and the Presidency, the Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry for their outstanding dedication and achievements for the cause of the ICC since the last Assembly of State Parties.

As you, Madam President, underlined in your letter on this debate, assessing the impact of the ICC on the victims and finding ways for more effective cooperation are tasks that the ICC cannot set aside on its way towards a more effective permanent international criminal court.

First and foremost, securing strong, timely and consistent cooperation of all states and stakeholders with the Court is a key for its effective functioning and the integrity of its proceedings and decisions. Preliminary examinations,

investigations, executing of arrest warrants and surrender requests, and prosecution, all these steps require effective and comprehensive cooperation and assistance from the whole international community. In this regard, my delegation recognizes the efforts made by the ICC, including on arrest strategies and national focal points, and encourages further work on the essential issue of cooperation. By facilitating multidirectional cooperation, the international community will send a clear message to potential perpetrators that there is no safe haven anywhere in the world.

In the same vein, this delegation underlines the necessity of enhancing the system for victims throughout the whole Court process, including their participation in proceedings and reparation. The victims are the past, present and future, the *raison d'être* of the ICC. It was the millions of victims of the most serious crimes who triggered the discussions that led to the establishment of this Court. In this regard, the Republic of Korea is convinced that one of the most important roles or aims of the Court should be deterrence. The ICC's activities should clearly contribute to stopping the suffering of victims and affected communities and preventing the recurrence of serious crimes. The Republic of Korea fully supports the efforts of the ICC to address this issue of utmost importance and will continue its efforts in this regard, including with its contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims.

With all these challenges and tasks that the Court is facing, the successful working of the ICC will certainly depend on states effectively assuming their primary responsibility vis-à-vis the most serious crimes. It is essential that member states enhance the capacity of their national jurisdictions and we commend the ICC for its efforts to enhance positive complementarity, including its Legal Tools Project or its assistance to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and

the Special Court for Sierra Leone. We also welcome efforts by different actors to strengthen the rule of law, both at the domestic and international levels, and expect that they will strengthen the international justice system as a whole.

While the increased activities of the Court are obviously welcome, we note that the challenges in terms of resources could affect a wide range of aspects of the Court's operations, including its efforts for fair trial. As such, it is incumbent upon us to provide an appropriate level of funding to support the court's activities while exploring at the same time avenues to enhance efficiency and potential savings.

We hope that this Assembly will hold productive discussions on all these matters of great importance and be able to adopt measures that will further the cause of the ICC. I would like to conclude by reaffirming the Republic of Korea's commitment to and full support of the activities of the ICC.

Thank you, Madame President.