



**PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT**

**by H.E. Mr. Ivana Pajević**

**Deputy Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations**

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*Please check against delivery*

Mr Chairman,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your election for the President of the Assembly of the State Parties of Roman Statute for the following three years. My delegation is committed to work closely with you, thereby I offer you our full support. I would also like to thank ambassador Intelmann, for the valuable contribution to the development of the Court that she made during her presidency.

My delegation also welcomes the election of new judges of the ICC who will have a very difficult job and demanding role in further strengthening of international criminal justice system.

Montenegro fully aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of European Union. However, I would like to underline certain matters of particular importance for my state.

Mr Chairman,

In contrast to previous human rights treaties that only require self-reporting, commitment to the International Criminal Court (the "ICC") requires the state to cede to an independent prosecutor the power to investigate and prosecute the state's own nationals for mass atrocities when that prosecutor determines the state is unwilling or unable to carry out the investigation domestically.

The fact that almost two thirds of the United Nations member countries would embrace such jurisdiction of an independent international institution on its own territory is a remarkable development. Indeed, the decision by the national leaders to join the court seems potentially to run against their self-interest, since it is widely assumed the ICC will focus on prosecutions of high-level figures in countries where mass atrocities occur. The above mentioned takes us to the conclusion that the majority of UN member states is extremely dedicated to the further improvement of international criminal system and an independent judicial mechanisms, but

also reminds us that we still have work ahead of us if we want the Rome Statute of the ICC to become universally accepted.

Mr Chairman,

We share the views that the topics you have identified as thematic axes, during your presidency, are of great importance to the further development of the Court. Relations with Africa, universality of Rome Statute, as well as complementarity and cooperation with the court are all issues requesting for common position, if we want for the ICC to succeed.

Therefore, Montenegro welcomes the active discussion we have had here in New York in the past months, with the aim to improve functioning and efficiency of the work of the Assembly of the State Parties and Court itself, including Court's register. It is necessary to continue the constructive dialog we are having and find a common position on all pending issues in order to establish stronger ICC which will apply universal justice.

We acknowledge the importance of the role of International Criminal Court and other international tribunals to fight impunity and strongly underline the importance of ratification of the Rome Statute and encourage all states to ratify it and establish strong cooperation with the ICC.

Mr Chairman,

The commitment of Montenegro to the work of ICC and the full implementation of the Rome Statute, as well as the other countries of the region, is also reflected throughout a strong political will and determination to carry out further procedures in the process of ratifying the Kampala amendments, which are in the internal procedure.

I thank you Mr Chairman.