

PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
to the United Nations



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA ROUMANIE
auprès des Nations Unies

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

- GENERAL DEBATE -

Statement by Romania

H.E. Ambassador Simona Miculescu
Permanent Representative of Romania to the UN

- 11 DECEMBER 2014 -

Monsieur le Président,
Vos Excellences,
Distingués délégués,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

La Roumanie s'associe pleinement à la déclaration faite par le représentant de l'Italie au nom de l'Union européenne. J'ai l'immense honneur de m'adresser à ce distingué auditoire afin d'ajouter quelques considérations en ma capacité nationale.

Le développement de la Cour pénale internationale a franchi une nouvelle étape. Nous sommes en train de rentrer dans une nouvelle phase et cela sous votre direction. Permettez-moi de vous rassurer, Monsieur le Président, que vous pouvez compter sur le plein soutien de la Roumanie pour faire face aux défis qui nous attendent.

Au même temps, je tiens à exprimer la gratitude de ma délégation pour la contribution substantielle apportée au développement de la Cour par votre prédécesseur, l'Ambassadeur Tiina Intelmann, qui n'a pas ménagé ses efforts pour rendre la Cour plus visible et le monde plus conscient de son existence.

Monsieur le Président,

Ma délégation salue l'élection des nouveaux juges. Nous sommes convaincus que leur élection, à la suite d'un processus complexe de sélection, donne à la Cour des professionnels hautement qualifiés et motivés, à un moment de pleine expansion de son activité judiciaire.

Nous profitons de cette occasion pour remercier aux juges qui se trouvent à la fin de leurs mandats et pour saluer le travail remarquable réalisé par le Président Song au cours de sa présidence, ce qui a considérablement renforcé la Cour.

Nous saluons également l'élection des nouveaux membres du Comité du budget et des finances et voudrions remercier aux anciens membres pour leur activité au service de la Cour.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Recent events have reminded us once more the relevance of the International Criminal Court and the need for the rule of law and justice. We need to reinforce our collective and individual efforts in order to fight impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern. Romania encourages every State, which is not yet a party, to join the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC. We continue to believe that each step towards *the universality of the Rome Statute* is a step towards peace and stability.

Becoming a party to the Rome Statute is a long term commitment. It is a challenging commitment, as our political will and wisdom are regularly put to the test.

The Rome Statute represented the best compromise solution that enabled the creation of the International Criminal Court and marked a noteworthy progress in the development of international criminal law.

The significance of the Rome Treaty goes beyond this as it recognizes,

- firstly, that impunity for the committal of the most serious crimes of concern for the international community is unconceivable, no matter the official capacity of the person involved, and
- secondly, that justice must be done to the victims of such outrageous crimes, their right to dignity, to a normal life being protected and guaranteed.

Therefore, in our utmost desire to improve the system founded on the Rome Statute we must not go any inch back, but only yards forward, otherwise the credibility of the whole system would be undermined and our long devoted efforts to this cause of justice and peace would be emptied of any substance and rendered trivial.

Equally, the principle of complementarity is a cornerstone of this system founded on the Rome Statute, as it underlines its role in committing States in fighting impunity within their territory, by strengthening the rule of law at national level and the national legal systems. We take the view that the effectiveness of the enforcement of the Rome Statute lies not only in the docket of the ICC but in robust, deterrent national criminal law systems. Strengthening national judicial mechanisms is, thus, an important part of our joint endeavor.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The project for which we gathered in Rome in 1998 needs our constant cooperation in order to be efficient, strong and durable. The good reputation and credibility of the International Criminal Court depend in great measure on the support of us all, including for preserving its independence and alleviating undue pressure.

Romania will continue to support the International Criminal Court and promote its activity, and I would like to mention one of its most recent initiatives carried out to this end. In July, we celebrated in Bucharest the day of international criminal justice with an event dedicated to the ICC. It was organized by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law and the Romanian Red Cross. We are grateful for Prosecutor Bensouda's participation and keynote intervention on the achievements and challenges of the Court. I take this opportunity to once more assure the Prosecutor of my delegation's appreciation for her outstanding endeavors in increasingly complicated contexts.

Mr. President,

One should highly acknowledge the abnegation of civil society in strongly believing in the International Criminal Court as a significant tool for making justice in the world and bringing along peace and stability. In particular we would like to thank NGOs for their constant involvement and contribution

during these last years in relation to the activity of the ICC. We definitely could not have got so far without their support.

To conclude, I would recall the words of one of the forefathers of this court, Romanian legal expert Vespasian Pella. His words came in the aftermath of the Second World War, at a time of great hope for multilateralism, whose words are worth recalling at a time when advancing the multilateral system is faced with so many crossroads. An international criminal tribunal, he stressed, is charged with the implementation of the solidarity of rights and duties existing between nations, members of the same complex which is mankind. We need to remind ourselves of this shared solidarity, to keep in mind that what unites us is stronger than what divides us.

Thank you, Mr. President.