

**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**STATEMENT BY HON. FREDRICK RUHINDI  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**AT THE**

**14<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO  
THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL  
COURT**

**THE HAGUE, 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**      *(Check against  
delivery)*

Mr. President, Honourable Members of the Court,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Mr. President,**

Allow me to begin by expressing our deepest sympathies to the Governments and people of Kenya, Afghanistan, France, Iraq, Lebanon, Nigeria and Russia who have recently been victims of terrorist activities of the most heinous kinds. We send our condolences to the victims and their families, and wish quick recovery to those who may have been injured as a result.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation is pleased to see you preside over this Fourteenth Session of the Assembly of States Parties and we pledge our full cooperation to you for a successful Session.

**Mr. President,**

I would like to express my appreciation to all members of the ICC for the accomplishments achieved in the past years and I would like to recognize the many challenges that the office faces in pursuing its mandate.

My delegation aligns itself with the Statement of the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia on behalf of the African Union.

At the outset, permit me to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Uganda to the ideals of a strong, impartial and effective ICC. This commitment remains unwavering.

Since the last Assembly in New York Uganda can report to you Mr. President that it has worked tirelessly for the arrest and surrender of the Members of the Lord Resistance Army which in January of this year resulted in the arrest of Mr. Dominic Ongwen who was on the territory of the Central African Republic. It is through cooperation with the Office of the Prosecutor and the countries concerned that Dominic Ongwen was surrendered to the Court and is now in custody awaiting trial. The Government of Uganda is fully cooperating with the Office of the Prosecutor and other organs of the Court to ensure that Mr. Ongwen answers for the crimes he has committed in a transparent and fair process.

I take the opportunity to express our gratitude for the cooperation of all partners in affecting the arrest and surrender of this indictee.

**Mr. President,**

I wish to touch on a matter that is of great importance to the Court and the Assembly and has an impact in the way the Court is functioning but also in the way it is being perceived, namely the ReVision project. When the Assembly gave its approval to the Registry to implement this project it was expected that it would result in a lean and more efficient Court.

Unfortunately, we regret to note that the exercise has turned out to be a source of anxiety amongst staff members in the Court due to uncertainty, and insecurity of tenure. This has in turn resulted in many of them being demotivated and stifled staff performance. We further regret to note that out of all positions negatively affected by the ReVision project, 37% of them are from the African region. In fact the whole exercise has led to greater geographical and gender imbalance and we are now back to the position prior to 2012. At the moment, there is not a single African, male or female in the Registry at P-5 level or above.

We therefore call upon the ASP to take keen interest in this and other related matters in furtherance of transparency, efficiency, and operations of the Court. This institution belongs to all of us, and not to just a few who happen to be in geographical proximity of the Court.

**Mr. President,**

Justice must not only be done, but it must also be seen to be done. The institution that administers justice must be above reproach, including in the manner that office holders are recruited. We urge the Court to always adhere to gender and geographical considerations in accordance with the relevant resolutions of this Assembly. Accordingly we would like to see more African women in high level decision making positions.

**Mr. President,**

I take this opportunity to reiterate Uganda's support to the International Criminal Court in the fight against impunity. We will continue to work closely with the Court to ensure that all indictees in the situation in Northern Uganda are brought to justice. While we have achieved peace in that part of our country, we know that this can only be sustainable when the problem of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is completely resolved. The Uganda People's Defence Forces continue in hot pursuit against Joseph Kony and the other remnants of the LRA in their hideouts in north eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Central African Republic (CAR). We shall not rest until the last one of them has been brought to justice.

We call upon all those who have the means, capacity and mandate to deal with the LRA effectively and to end this situation once and for all.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to reaffirm Uganda's commitment to the fight against impunity.

I thank you.

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