



República Argentina

**STATEMENT OF
ARGENTINE DELEGATION**

15° session of Assembly of States Parties of Rome Statute

16 November 2016

Mr. President Sidiki Kaba,

I congratulate you on behalf of the Argentine Delegation and I am confident that, with your efficient conduction, we develop a new and fruitful session period of this Assembly of States Parties of Rome Statute. To that end, count on all our support.

Mr. President,

We live in times of multiple challenges. They are so for the world and also indeed for this institution.

The unequivocal and constant support of States that compose this space is key to succeed in the fight against impunity. Furthermore, achieving universality of the membership in our system is *sine qua non* condition in order to reach its apogee and the final triumph of this high goal.

From this perspective, the recent decision of some States Parties to withdraw from Rome Statute shows with extreme cruelty the difficulties to achieve the status of full membership and it invites us to redouble our bet.

Our construction is common and inclusive and each State Party is a unique and irreplaceable member.

We do not see other way than constructive dialogue with the aim to address the problems that might arise within the Statute System, notwithstanding that we will endeavor to keep its integrity.

Along those lines, we consider convenient the proposal to establish a special segment during this Assembly in order to exchange views and identify possible alternatives to enhance the Statute System.

My region is honored, Mister President, to continue reinforcing its presence in this framework. During this year the sister Republic of El Salvador has acceded to the Rome Statute. Allow me to remark again this fact and congratulate to the representatives of the delegation of El Salvador, present for the first time in this Assembly as full members.

Mr. President,

We propose that this Assembly jointly envisages redoubling their efforts to continue promoting the universality of Statute as well as the better knowledge of our system. The world public opinion needs to be better informed of what this framework is foreseeing and raise great awareness of the meaning of the Court and its performance. The promotion of universality relies on the politic-diplomatic means but also on an adequate outreach to the societies and a correct perception of its mission. We count also, to that end, with the valuable work of non-governmental organizations.

I cannot leave this matter without pointing out the outstanding work of Denmark and Cyprus as focal points of universality topic, producing an initiative of dissemination in social network to which Argentina has fully joined.

Mr. President,

Had we to define the ultimate reason of this System, many of us will think immediately on the victims of the most serious crimes. The protection of their rights, in particular the one to obtain due reparation, encompasses the cornerstone of Statute System. Not to mention that the mere existence of this institution sets the start of a long way towards a world with even less victims and no impunity.

We are glad of the fact that since its creation up to present the Court, in association with the Trust Fund for Victims has assisted to more than 300.000 victims in their physic and psychological rehabilitation as well as it has provided material support.

In the same vein, we consider the protection of rights and guarantees of the future generations as a priority. Therefore, we congratulate the Office of the Prosecutor on the launch of Policy on Children that will take place within the scope of this Assembly and that we have decided to co-sponsor.

Mr. President,

Argentina is pleased that Kampala amendments on aggression crime have reached the threshold of thirty ratifications, what constitutes a fundamental step in order to make possible the activation of the exercise of Court's competence on that crime. Argentina supports firmly this fact that completes the legal building of the Court. In the case of our country, I am also pleased to inform the recent legislative approval by the Honorable Congress of the Argentine Nation and therefore the fulfilling of a decisive phase in the internal requirements for the ratification.

Mr. President,

We have the conviction that the Court must be provided of financial resources. We are also aware of the specificities that present a consolidation process as the one taking place.

We deem adequate to follow the recommendations of the Committee on Budget and Finance with the aim to assure that the activities that constitute the essential core of the functions of the Court might develop normally with an appropriate budget. We are confident that this Assembly finds soon a formula based on consensus.

Furthermore, we believe that expedite the judicial proceedings with a view to a better efficiency and effectiveness of the Court's work is a central task within the priorities set by the current ICC's President. For this reason we hope that within the framework of this Assembly we are able to adopt the amendment proposals to the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, drafted by the judges that are currently under consideration of the Working Group on Amendments.

Mr. President,

On the other hand, the Assembly of States Parties also offers a great framework for cooperation between States related to the most serious crimes for international community reinforcing, this way, the complementarity principle.

In that regard, I recall the joint initiative for the adoption of a multilateral instrument on legal assistance and extradition for crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide being promoted by Argentina, Belgium, the Netherlands and Slovenia.

Such an initiative is supported by a wide range of States that have signed the Permanent Declaration. We invite all States to adhere to the Permanent Declaration that have not done so to subscribe that Declaration and to join us in the activities of presentation and promotion of this initiative in the relevant fora.

Mr. President,

The International Criminal Court keeps fully its legitimacy as a fundamental tool in the fight against impunity of the most serious crimes.

Quoting the Kampala Declaration, this one recalls us - "the noble mission and the role of the International Criminal Court in a multilateral system that aims to end impunity, establish the rule of law, promote and encourage respect for human rights and achieve sustainable peace, in accordance with international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations".

It is great to remember the high goals that must continue inspiring our job and the Court's one, with an inclusive spirit predominated by cooperation and dialogue. With this spirit let's renew our commitment, of all of us, with this common construction, with this project of all of us that is the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court.

Thank you.