



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
SURINAMESTRAAT 15
2585 GG THE HAGUE

Ref: 284.14.96

NOTE VERBALE

The Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in The Hague presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Assembly of State Parties of the International Criminal Court and has the honour to refer to the latter's Note Verbale under reference ICC-ASP/16/SP/45, dated 17 August 2017, regarding the Plan of Action of the Assembly of States Parties for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and has the honour to provide the following information.

The Republic of Cyprus is deeply honoured by its appointment as ad country co-focal point for the Plan of Action, for the period October 2013 until the end of 2016, and remains fully committed to the collective responsibility of all States Parties to promote the University of the Rome Statute.

On July 21 2017, the Embassies of the Republic of Cyprus and of the Kingdom of Denmark in The Hague, co-organized the launching event for the "Join" social media campaign that promotes the Universality of the Rome Statute of the ICC, at the Humanity House in The Hague.

H.E. Mr. Ioannis Kasoulides, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, participated in the campaign, along with the President of the Assembly of States Parties and Minister of Justice of Senegal H.E. Mr. Sidiki Kaba, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark H.E. Mr. Anders Samuelsen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic H.E. Lubomir Zaorale and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina H.E. Mr. Jorge Faurie. The participating Ministers encouraged States not Parties to the Rome Statute to ratify the Statute and addressed a number of issues which are of concern to those States.

Moreover, it should be noted that one of the priorities of the Cyprus Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (November 2016 to May 2017) was the protection of cultural heritage, a priority which culminated to the conclusion of the *Nicosia Convention on Offenses related to Cultural Property* in May 2017.

In the framework of the Cyprus Chairmanship, the Prosecutor of the ICC Mrs. Fatou Bensouda participated at a Colloquium entitled "Initiatives to strengthen international capacities for the protection of cultural property and the prevention of illicit trafficking in cultural goods – the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property" that was organized in Strasbourg on January 13, 2017.

Furthermore, Mr. Gilles Dutertre, Senior Trial Lawyer of the ICC in the Al-Mahdi Case, participated at the event entitled "Promoting and Strengthening the international legal

framework for the protection of cultural heritage-the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention and other relevant legal instruments and initiatives” that took place on February 28 2017, at the UN Headquarters in New York. The event was co-organized by the Permanent Representations of the Republic of Cyprus and Italy to the UN and by the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT).

The participation of the Office of The Prosecutor in the aforementioned events was vital in increasing awareness about the significant work of the ICC among States not Parties, who are members of the Council of Europe and the United Nations.

The Republic of Cyprus also strongly supports the efforts towards universality undertaken by the European Union, including through instruments such as political dialogue, demarches or other bilateral means, as well as through the provision of assistance to countries that may encounter difficulties with ratification, accession or implementation of the Rome Statute.

Also, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Kasoulides is a member of the Informal Ministerial Network for the International Criminal Court, a forum which comprises of more than thirty Ministers from all regions of the world, and which, inter alia, promotes joint efforts towards universality of the Rome Statute.

In relation to the information referred to in paragraph 6, subparagraph (h) of the Plan of Action, as well as the relevant recommendations of the Bureau, the Embassy wishes to refer to relevant information submitted through its Note Verbale with reference number 284.7.96, dated 9 January 2014. The Embassy would also like to refer to the responses submitted to the “Implementing Legislation Questionnaire” through the aforementioned Note Verbale.

The Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in The Hague avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Assembly of State Parties to the International Criminal Court the assurances of its highest consideration.



To the
Secretariat of the Assembly of State Parties
International Criminal Court
The Hague