

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION****International Criminal Court Project**

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**Statement by Michael S. Greco, on behalf of the American Bar Association,
to the 17th Session of the Assembly of States Parties
of the International Criminal Court
7 December 2018**

Mr. Vice President, Members of the Assembly of States Parties, Esteemed
Colleagues:

I am Michael S. Greco. I am a former President of the American Bar
Association and serve as Chair of the ABA's International Criminal Court Project.

The ABA's ICC Project promotes and enhances international criminal
justice generally and U.S.-ICC relations through advocacy, education, and practical
legal assistance. Regarding the latter, the ABA is a proud member of the
International Criminal Justice Consortium, a non-partisan alliance of rule of law and
human rights organizations with a mandate to provide legal capacity building
assistance to international tribunals and domestic jurisdictions undertaking atrocity
crimes work.

Since 1978, the ABA has expressed strong support of a permanent
international criminal tribunal and, later, of the Rome Statute and U.S. ratification of
it or accession to it. More recently, the ABA has urged U.S. cooperation with, and
assistance to, the ICC's casework.

Against this backdrop, I am here to reaffirm the ABA's strong support of the
ICC and its critically important mandate to investigate and, where warranted,
prosecute atrocity crimes. The ABA stands together with the Assembly of States
Parties, individual States Parties, and our civil society colleagues in helping protect
the independence of the Court from political interference and ensuring that the ICC
receives all necessary resources to help maintain international peace and security
through the fair and impartial application of international law. In our view, the fight
to end impunity for atrocity crimes begins with support for the ICC.

This brings me to the matter of complementarity—a foundational concept of the ICC’s jurisdiction. As publicly stated many times before, the ABA has called for thorough investigation of alleged violations of law with respect to the mistreatment or rendition of persons within the custody or under the physical control of the U.S. government and, if warranted, initiation of appropriate proceedings against persons who may have been involved in or responsible for those violations. That position has not changed, and the ABA retains absolute confidence in relevant U.S. judicial authorities to perform this function.

It is in the context of the ABA’s longstanding and unwavering commitment to the ICC that we join others in urging the Assembly of States Parties and international civil society to redouble their commitment to the ICC as well. The Court is needed now more than ever.

On behalf of the American Bar Association, I thank you for your kind attention, and stand with you in the cause of international criminal justice.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael S. Greco".

Michael S. Greco
Chair, American Bar Association’s International Criminal Court Project