

**BRAZIL**  
**VII ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES**  
**INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

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**AMBASSADOR OF BRAZIL TO THE NETHERLANDS**

**6-12-2018**

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes your presidency of this Assembly. You can count on my delegation's full support and cooperation. On recognizing the presence of the ASP Vice-Presidents, the President of the Court and the Prosecutor, Brazil thanks them for their relentless work on behalf of this institution.

Mr. President

Each Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court is an occasion to reinforce our attachment to multilateralism and international law, as well as to renew our commitment to the most noble values and principles enshrined in the Rome Statute, our guide towards the goal of ending impunity for the most serious international crimes.

In July, an important step in this direction was achieved. The activation of the jurisdiction of the ICC to judge crimes of aggression completed the architecture of the Rome Statute as originally imagined. It is telling that it happened exactly a century after the armistice that put an end to the First World War, a conflict that still lingers in the conscience of humanity. A strengthened Rome Statute system and a global order based on the rule of law are the most effective deterrents to prevent human tragedies such as that.

Mr. President,

This year, when we commemorate 20 years since the adoption of the Rome Statute, the Assembly calls not only for celebration, but also for reflection on accomplishments and frustrations along this time.

The States Parties, who supported and financed the Court during its first twenty years, very legitimately aspire to see it performing effectively, as a mature institution, and delivering international justice at a pace and in a manner that strengthen its credibility.

More efforts should be made to adapt the ICC to the changes in the international scene and in its own membership. Brazil considers that the distribution of seats in the Bureau no longer reflect the membership of the Rome Statute. A reform to update it and make it more adequate to contemporary circumstances is of the essence.

At the same time, it is urgent to address the question of better geographic distribution and gender balance in the structure of the Court, including in its most senior positions. ICC would greatly benefit from a fair regional balance, which ensures a diversity of perspectives both, internally, contributing to a creative work environment and, externally, enabling crucial responses to outstanding perception challenges.

As one of the most underrepresented State Parties in the Secretariat, Brazil praises the initiatives put in place to correct these imbalances and remains actively engaged to find a solution to this issue.

Mr. President,

We recognize that the Office of the Prosecutor is striving to broaden its activities, investigating situations all over the globe, and thus countering accusations of “selective justice”. Alongside this essential endeavor for the consolidation of the Court’s purposes, there remains universality to be pursued.

The question of universality is central to the role of this Court over the next years. Although the number of States Parties has risen to 123 since the adoption of the Rome Statute, there still lies a long way to be trod. If we are to make strides in the issue of universality, rhetoric will not be enough to convince reluctant countries to adhere. Efficient allocation of resources, solid investigations and expeditious procedures is what the world expects from the ICC.

Mr. President,

The “zero nominal growth” approach embraced by Brazil and other States Parties in the budget negotiations reflects an evergrowing commitment with the ICC and its efficiency, on the one hand; as well as with accountability on the other, by keeping costs at a minimum, streamlining budgets and thoroughly scrutinizing expenditures.

In light of severe budgetary constraints, Brazil has been making enormous efforts to pay its contributions to the ICC. The fact that we paid more than 15 million euros to the Court in 2018 is proof enough of Brazilian firm engagement with the ICC and with the struggle to optimize its functioning.

Mr. President,

To conclude, I would like to refer to the late Kofi Annan and his words on the day the Rome Statute came into force: “there must be no relenting in the fight against impunity”. Brazil will do its part, so that the ICC continues to have a fundamental role to play in this fight.

Thank you very much.