



**Statement by H.E Dr Alireza Jahangiri, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
to the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**At 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court  
The Hague, 6 December 2018**

*In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**Mr. President,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

At the outset, I would like to express my thanks to His Excellency O-Gon Kwon for his first year leadership as the President of the Assembly. I also congratulate for the election of the Vice- President and new members of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims and the Advisory Committee.

**Mr. President**

This year we have commemorated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court, which was set up to deal with the most serious crimes of international concern, namely genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crime of aggression.

Its establishment has inspired much hope that those crimes will no longer go unpunished and that its deterrent effect will significantly reduce their occurrence. However, it seems that the Court has encountered difficulties and challenges. The atrocities, committed in various parts of the world, continue and make a great concern for international community.

In this context, the ICC should take a coincided approach in addressing its values and policies. It is necessary for the Court to attain a balance between its two core values, namely, peace and justice. Justice should not be pursued at the expense of peace. We firmly believe that peace and justice are interconnected, mutually reinforcing and should be pursued together. In this line, Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the activation of the Court's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression as of 17 July 2018.

Meanwhile, the Court should promote and adhere the rule of law by uniform and consistent application of the Rome Statute and rules of international law, as appropriate. The confidence and trust of States Parties in the Court depends on the predictability and reliability in the application of the Rome Statute.

It should be an assumption that the Court interprets and applies the Rome Statute in an objective and unified manner not by any practice of "double standard" or "selective justice".

The ICC needs to strengthen its activities on rising of awareness through holding different meetings and conferences aiming to elaborating the features of the ICC as non-political, judicial and global institution as well as the principle of complementarity jurisdiction and promoting of universality of the Rome Statute, to the various categories of elites specially for judges and prosecutors. ICC regional conferences which convened in some countries may provide a suitable environment for this target.

There is no doubt that international community should recognize the ICC as a permanent criminal court in the history and as significant achievement of mankind and avoid any act or perception against efficiency and effectivity of the ICC. Regrettably, in contrast to the importance of the Court, we are witnessing some

squandering remarks by officials of one certain country in order to weaken the ICC and threatening honorable judges and other officials by arrest and sanction if they want to do their job in interest of international justice with charging whoever with war crimes.

**Mr President**

In the past year, the court has had an extraordinary level of activity, which is a testimony that the ICC is now a fully established institution. We also commend the innovative judgments of the court especially on destruction of cultural property as well as support over victims through its determination of reparations via its Trust Fund for Victims. We also commend the prosecutor, Ms. Fatou Bensouda, for the tremendous stride made in discharging her mandate.

The involvement of the Court into new investigations of alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in relation to different situations around the world has opened new windows of opportunity for justice. Likewise, we see the Palestine situation as a test before the Court, a test which will demonstrate whether the court and international criminal system would be in a position to respond to the call of justice, similar to other situations and cases.

**Mr. President**

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a signatory of the Rome statute, attaches great importance to the activities and functions of the International Criminal Court and its unique role in the promotion of international justice and peace and evolving landscape of international criminal law. We affirm the aims of the Court and are determined to support it in achieving these noble objectives, namely fighting impunity and ensuring accountability for the heinous crimes.

We believe that an effective, independent and impartial international mechanism and a well-established international institution can prevent future instances of crimes that have plagued the humanity over the ages. This is where we consider the contribution of the Rome Statute and the role of the ICC is paramount. It is through the ICC that the collective conscience of mankind is expressed, and a mechanism thorough which the rule of law transcends boundaries.

In this context, Iranian legal society and judicial practitioners as well as scientific and academic centers have been following up the developments on intentional criminal law and particularly in the ICC. For promotion of ICC legal literature in one event on 9 August 2018 the first round of the 10<sup>th</sup> Moot Court Competition of International Criminal Court (National Round) was held in collaboration with Iran's National Committee of Humanitarian Law and the ICRC office in Tehran.

Moreover, the meeting of consultations between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ICC Prosecutor convened last year in New York. The visit to the International Criminal Court by delegation of Iranian parliamentarians and their consultations with ICC senior staff in July this year was fruitful and constructive.

**Mr. President,**

We look forward to deliberating and working together with our common objective in mind to put an end to impunity and ensure that the perpetrators of the world's most heinous crimes are brought to justice. And hope this Session of Assembly of States has successful outcome.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**