



**STATEMENT BY**

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**AT THE**

**17<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

**5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

**THE HAGUE**

**(Check against delivery)**

The President of the Assembly of States Parties His Excellency O-Gon Kwon

Heads of Delegations and Representatives of States Parties

The President of the International Criminal Court

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court

The Registrar and officers of the International Criminal Court

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

Mr. President,

I wish to begin my statement by warmly congratulating you upon your election last year as President of this distinguished Assembly and presiding over this 17<sup>th</sup> Session and I would like to assure you of my delegation's support in the execution of your mandate.

In the same vein, I would also like to congratulate H.E. Chile Eboe-Osuji upon being elected President of the Court. I wish to take note of his comprehensive maiden speech.

Mr. President,

I would like to take this opportunity to once again reiterate my country's commitment to the Rome Statute system and the fight against impunity for atrocity crimes whenever and wherever they may be committed. In this regard, we fully associate ourselves with the continuing efforts towards the universality of the Rome Statute.

Mr. President,

It is my pleasure to report that Uganda continues to cooperate with the Court in many respects as required under the Rome Statute. As a situation country, we have spared no effort in ensuring that the Court receives all the assistance it requires in executing its mandate on our territory. The advancement of the trial of Mr. Dominic Ongwen in three short years is testimony to this cooperation, as both the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry may attest. We still hope that through our joint efforts, the other indicted individuals will one day face justice.

Mr. President,

I also take this opportunity to inform this distinguished Assembly that we continue to work closely with the Court in enhancing the capacity of the International Crimes Division (ICD) of the High Court which remains the pre-eminent embodiment of the complementarity principle enshrined in preamble and Article 1 of the Rome Statute. The Division, about which we have spoken at previous ASP sessions, continues to be a pioneer on how national courts can be empowered and equipped to complement the ICC.

Uganda highly appreciates the continued cooperation it has received from the Office of the Prosecutor; the Registrar; and all officials in exchanging best practices with the judges and other officials of the International Crimes Division (ICD) of the High Court in Uganda. This Division is mandated to prosecute other senior commanders of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) such as Mr. Thomas Kwoyello who is presently standing trial. Such cooperation is vital and brings alive the "complementarity principle" of the Rome Statute. In the same vein, the Witness Protection Programme is in advanced stages of being established, having begun cooperation with the Victims Participation and Reparations Section of the ICC. We welcome any further assistance in this regard.

We thank the Court for its assistance with the training of our judges, prosecutors and investigators over the years.

Mr. President,

Uganda was privileged to host a delegation of Ambassadors and diplomats from the Hague and from Kampala under the auspices of the Irish Government and the Trust Fund for Victims to monitor the impact of programmes supported by the Trust Fund in the affected communities in northern Uganda. Over the years, victims of the LRA atrocities have found solace from the contribution of the Trust Fund.

We have no doubt that this first-hand experience provided the delegation with the opportunity, to be witnessing the reality that the victims live with on a daily basis, left lasting impressions, that

will go a long way to cement the valuable work of the Trust Fund for Victims that translates into practice the aspirations of the drafters of the Rome Statute.

We applaud the contribution of one million Euro announced last evening by the Government of the Netherlands, and encourage other States, and organisations to enable the Trust Fund to carry out its mandate of assisting victims to alleviate their plight.

Mr. President,

My delegation is proud to state that Uganda has been associated with Justice Rapid Response (JRR), and commends the excellent work of this intergovernmental organisation. The JRR roster contains many experts such as those highly specialised in the area of sexual and gender-based crimes. This complements the work of the prosecutions in holding to account the perpetrators of these heinous crimes. Indeed, we are finally beginning to witness an increased awareness leading to prosecution in various situations of sexual and gender-based crimes.

We would also like to use this opportunity to re-echo the appreciation of the role civil society continues to play in promoting and strengthening the Rome Statute system.

Mr. President,

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected members of the Advisory Committee on Judicial Nominations (ACN) and the Board of the Trust Fund for Victims.

Lastly, Mr. President,

I wish to end by once again assuring you of Uganda's firm commitment to the ideals for which the International Criminal Court was established. We also, once again, want to assure you of our support as you steer the business of the Assembly during this session.

I thank you.