

Rome Statute of the
International Criminal Court

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Statement on behalf of

Germany

by

Dr. Joachim Bertele
Director for Public International Law
Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In times when multilateral approaches come under pressure, where populism and nationalism for many different reasons find new fertile ground, we are called to defend rules and institutions which render our world more just and a safer place.

Our approach will be all the more successful if we are more efficient and effective. What we need is to defend our multilateral institutions and among those especially this Court! We have to strengthen and reform those institutions in an alliance for multilateralism and against impunity.

Mr. President,

With this our common goal in mind, 2019 was an important year for the International Criminal Court. We witnessed an engaged and vivid debate about how to solidify its role as an integral part of today's international legal order. The Court remains the expression of the international community's determination to ensure that the most heinous crimes must not go unpunished and that their perpetrators will be held accountable.

Today I want to focus on complementarity, universality and reform.

Mr. President,

The system of the Rome Statute is based on the pillars of cooperation and complementarity. They establish a nuanced relationship between the Court and States Parties and entail important responsibilities for both sides. Germany will continue its dedicated and reliable cooperation with the Court. With regard to the principle of complementarity, we have undertaken considerable efforts in order to enable the German justice system to prosecute crimes covered by the Rome Statute. Recent proceedings in national courts with regard to the situation in Syria illustrate

these efforts. We want to pursue this alley and encourage other partners to follow the same path.

Mr. President,

Universality of the Rome Statute remains our central political aim. Germany continues to deeply regret the fact that individual States have withdrawn from the Statute. All the more we cherish the fact that Kiribati has decided to become a new member state. We repeat our readiness to engage in a constructive dialogue in order to address concerns. And we consciously see the current debate about review and reform as the place for such dialogue. My Government is willing to listen carefully and firmly believes that we will be able to deal with misgivings from within the institution, while taking a principled stand in defence of the Court against unwarranted outside criticism. As the EU Presidency said, we are concerned about measures taken against members of this institution.

Mr. President,

Strengthening efficiency and effectiveness is in the Court's paramount interest and currently our foremost concern. We gather at this Assembly of States Parties to bring forward the review process in order to address issues of governance and to consolidate what has been achieved. With regard to governance, two areas remain of particular interest.

First, we attach great importance to the election of the most highly qualified judges and prosecutor to this Court.

Second, as to the budget, my Government has for many years advocated a more predictable budget process. We continue to call for full transparency and for more flexible structures. With regard to the composition of the staff, we see little improvement in the Court's compliance with the principle of equitable geographical representation. Equitable geographical representation is an expression

of the Court's universality, provides legitimacy, builds trust and supports the acceptance of the Court's work worldwide. The Court should undertake greater efforts to fulfil this obligation.

Mr President,

In conclusion, allow me to recall the Court's critical role in providing a forum to address the grievances of victims. Lending coherence to the Court's work with victims continues to be of vital importance. Germany has consistently made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Victims. I am therefore glad to inform you that my Government has contributed another 300,000 euros to the Trust Fund also this year.

Thank you, Mr President.