



Embassy of Albania
The Hague

Statement on behalf of the Republic of Albania

At the

Nineteenth Session of the Assembly of States Parties

To the Rome Statute

Of the International Criminal Court

The Hague, 14-16 December 2020

Written submission by H.E. Ms. Adia Sakiqi,

Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to the Kingdom of The Netherlands

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting this written statement on behalf of the Republic of Albania. The Republic of Albania aligns with ASP-19 Statement delivered on behalf of EU and would like to further highlight in its national capacity as follows:

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to express a great deal of appreciation to you, as well as to the Bureau and to the Secretariat of the ASP for your tireless efforts and solid execution of your duties, despite the challenges faced due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, we would also like to congratulate all newly elected members of the Credentials Committee.

The Republic of Albania considers the International Criminal Court to be a crucial pillar in the protection of victims of the most serious crimes under international law, in pursuing justice, as well as fighting against impunity. That has always been the mandate of the ICC, since its conception through the Rome Statute, and it remains equally important nowadays.

The pandemic brought a myriad of challenges for all of us as State Parties, albeit it did not reduce the impact of the important work of the International Criminal Court worldwide. Through the year 2020, we have welcomed engaged discussions about the importance of solidifying the ICC's contribution in fighting against impunity and protecting the victims, despite faced challenges. Judicial independence has and will always be crucial to the Court's mandate. In this regard, we would like to state that the Republic of Albania will continue to support the work of the Prosecutor and all other organs of the ICC. Moreover, all of us State Parties should continue to ensure full cooperation with the Court, in order for it to carry out its mandate.

Mr President,

The Republic of Albania holds of great importance the carrying out of our common efforts, aimed at reviewing the functioning of the Court, so as to make it stronger and more sustainable. Therefore we welcome the ongoing joint endeavours of the States Parties, the Court and civil society stakeholders, in ensuring transparency and coherence, through the appointment of the Independent Experts Review.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Albania supports the Court in providing a justifiable budget proposal, and in maximising use of human and other work related resources in carrying out its important work. We would also like to express our appreciation for the Court's current efforts in

enhancing the efficiency of investigations, prosecutions or judicial proceedings, and would like to encourage its continuation.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Albania recognizes the fundamental importance of the election process of new judges and the prosecutor to the ICC. It relies upon all of us, the States Parties, to nominate and elect the most suitable and qualified candidates for these positions. A transparent election process is crucial to solidify the impact of the ICC.

We welcome in this regard the establishment and tireless work of respectively the Advisory Committee on Nominations of Judges, and the Committee and panel of experts for the Election of the Prosecutor, in successfully contributing to this process.

Mr. President,

We are aware that the promotion of the universality of the Rome Statute impacts the prevention of crimes and breaches of international law. The State Parties should ensure that the Rome Statute remains a modern instrument, which can aptly respond to emerging threats. We would also like to highlight that the role of the ICC is to complement, not to replace existing national judicial systems. Thus, we would like to encourage all States Parties to accordingly implement the Rome Statute within their national legal systems and to properly address such serious crimes.

The Republic of Albania will continue to support the Court in its goal of guaranteeing justice for the victims.

I would kindly ask you Mr. President, to consider this statement as an official document and post it on the ASP's public website.

Thank you Mr. President.