

**EMBASSY OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
IN THE NETHERLANDS**



REMARKS BY

**IRENE F. M. KASYANJU, AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC
OF TANZANIA TO THE NETHERLANDS**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 9
ON THE GENERAL DEBATE**

**OF THE 19TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF
STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE OF
THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

14 – 16 DECEMBER 2020

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

Mr. President,

The United Republic of Tanzania welcomes the Report of the International Criminal Court contained in Document ICC-ASP/19/9 dated 16 November 2020; and thank the President of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP), Judge O-Gon Kwon; President of the Court, Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji; Prosecutor of the Court, Madam Fatou Bensouda; and Registrar of the Court, Mr. Peter Lewis for their appealing and captivating introductory remarks.

We commend the Court for providing recourse to justice for victims and for working tirelessly to end impunity for perpetrators of atrocity crimes. We add our voice to those who call for upholding the integrity and judicial independence of the Court and we call upon all States Parties to oppose any efforts geared towards undermining and weakening the ability of the Court to exercise its mandate.

We note from the Report and welcome the fact that the Court made important progress in pre-trial, trial, appeals proceedings, implementing reparations, as well as in conducting investigations and preliminary examinations by the Office of the Prosecutor. As alluded to in the Report, notable developments are inasmuch as, one accused has been sentenced, presentation of evidence in one trial has concluded, while another trial has commenced, charges against two accused persons have been confirmed; two suspects transferred to the Court and two investigations authorised. We commend the Court for this achievement despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 related restrictions and other challenges against the smooth execution of its mandate, including the most trying one of having to endure the sanctions imposed against it and some of its officials.

Mr. President,

We commend the excellent work of the Group of Independent Experts under the competent leadership of **Justice Richard Goldstone** and welcome their Report (Independent Expert Report -IER) and its 384 resourceful recommendations. We believe the Report provides excellent momentum for a way forward as it contains an in-depth review and analysis of the work of the Court that will require consideration by everyone. We commend the President of the Court for initiating this significant review because we

believe it was necessary for effective discharge of the Court's mandate. We look forward to constructively assessing the recommendations.

We have noted with satisfaction that the Court continued to support the victims. We commend the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) for its efforts in providing justice and reparations to all victims for the harm they suffered. Victims must be at the center of everything and we are grateful to note the fact that they are now participating in the Rome Statute system.

Mr. President,

As we enter in the 2020 judicial elections which will result in having new leadership of the Court, we must ensure that we elect six judges with high moral character and integrity based on the Report of the Advisory Committee on the Election of Judges. We must also ensure that we elect the most qualified and experienced Prosecutor of the ICC who shall be able to lead, address and protect victims of atrocity crimes without fear or favour. We thank the Committee on the Election of the Prosecutor for its tireless work which led to the submission of the names and appraisals of all candidates vying for the post of the Prosecutor.

We take this opportunity to thank all the outgoing judges for their outstanding contribution to the Court and for fighting against impunity. We particularly wish to pay tribute to the audacious, diligent and hardworking Prosecutor, Madam Bensouda for her dedication, exemplary and unwavering commitment to the Court. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Our tribute also goes to Judge Eboe-Osuji for successfully discharging his responsibilities for the past 3 years serving as President of the Court and throughout his 9 years as judge. As his term comes to an end, we wish him all the best in his future accomplishments.

Last but not least, we wish to extend our sincere thanks to Judge O-Gon Kwon the outgoing President of the Assembly and members of the Bureau for their successful tenure and their tireless efforts to foster the works of this vital Institution. We wish all incoming members of the Bureau a fruitful tenure.

Mr. President,

As we encourage countries which are yet to join the Court to do so, we congratulate and welcome the accession of the Republic of Kiribati as the 123rd State Party to the Rome Statute. This is a key step forward towards achieving universality of the Rome Statute and further representation of Pacific states within the ASP. We wish the Republic of Kiribati success in the discharge of its obligations under the Statute.

Mr. President,

As it continues to grow, ICC needs support and cooperation from everyone. We must all remember that despite the challenges it is currently facing, ICC remains a valuable tool and an inspiration against both impunity and injustice. It is indispensable in the fight against impunity under International Law. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania therefore, remains supportive and wishes to reaffirm her firm commitment to the Rome Statute system.

I THANK YOU !