



Embassy of Albania
The Hague

Statement on behalf of the Republic of Albania

At the

Twentieth Session of the Assembly of States Parties

to the Rome Statute

of the International Criminal Court

The Hague, 6-11 December 2021

Written submission for General Debate

By H.E. Ms. Adia Sakiqi,

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

Madam 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-20 statement delivered on behalf of the EU and would like to further highlight in its national capacity as follows:

First, we would like to warmly congratulate and express our full support to the new President of the Assembly, the new President of the Court, the new Prosecutor, and the judges elected at the last session of the ASP.

The Republic of Albania considers the International Criminal Court as a crucial instrument of international law to the pursuit of justice and to the fight against impunity. This has always been the mandate of the ICC and it remains just as important today, albeit the continued challenges posed by the pandemic since last year. Nonetheless, the circumstances did not diminish the impact of the ICC's work around the world. In this context, 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 and encourage all State Parties to continue to cooperate fully with the Court.

Madam President,

The Republic of Albania encourages all the State Parties to provide the Court with the necessary financial resources for the smooth continuation of its activities and to fulfil annual financial obligations in full. We believe that maximising the use of human and other work-related resources is of utmost importance for the Court's mandate.

Madam President,

The Republic of Albania attaches great importance to the implementation of our joint efforts to review the functioning of the Court in order to strengthen it and make it more sustainable, efficient and effective. In this regard, we welcome the continuation of the engagement in the follow-up of the Independent Review Mechanism and the implementation of its recommendations. This review process allows us the State Parties to continue maintaining our joint objective to strengthen the Rome Statute system and make the Court more efficient and effective for years to come.

Good governance and the promotion of a healthy working culture in which geographical inclusion and gender balance play a central role are of paramount importance. We call on all the State Parties, the Courts and civil society to continue their joint efforts to ensure that good governance, transparency and cohesion continue to be promoted and implemented.

The Republic of Albania would also encourage the organs of the ICC to continue improving the outreach and communication processes, including through dialogue with State Parties, to promote its mandate and activities as effectively as possible.

Madam President,

The Republic of Albania recognizes the fundamental importance of the election of the Deputy Prosecutors of the ICC. It relies on all of us, the States Parties, to elect the most suitable and qualified candidates for these positions. A transparent election process is crucial to further consolidate the impact of the Court worldwide.

Madam President,

Promoting the universality of the Rome Statute plays an important role in preventing crimes and other violations of international law. It is up to us as State Parties, to ensure that universality is promoted and that the Rome Statute remains a modern instrument that can respond promptly to new and emerging threats. As the sole implementing body of the Rome Statute, we find it essential that the Court continues to uphold its great work and addresses these global challenges.

Alongside all other State Parties, Albania remains fully committed to continuing working with the organs of the Court in order to further promote the contribution of the Court in ending impunity. The Republic of Albania will also continue to fully support the Court in its aim to bring justice to the victims.

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

Thank you.