

Madam President,

Please allow me to begin by congratulating you on the professional and steady way in which you have conducted the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute in what was a challenging and eventful year. As a member of the International Criminal Court, Brazil remains committed to the Rome Statute and engages in the efforts to promote its principles and objectives.

2021 has indeed been an eventful year at the ICC. In spite of the adversities created by the covid-19 pandemic, the Court has maintained its record of work and deserves our recognition for that. States-Parties and representatives of the ICC have fully engaged in the exercise of reviewing the functioning of the Court triggered by the report of the independent experts and the Comprehensive Action Plan, with a view to enabling the ICC to be fully operational so as to face the many challenges still ahead of us.

Brazil would also like to congratulate the new Prosecutor, Mr Karim Khan, on his election and take due note of his new vision for the Office under his responsibility, and hopefully counting on the support of two Deputy-Prosecutors. Brazil is convinced that this will lead to a clearer division of tasks and lines of reporting, enabling a more efficient OTP. Furthermore, Brazil considers that the election of two Deputy-Prosecutors constitutes a unique opportunity to render the Office more diverse, in terms of gender and geographic balance as well as representation of the main legal systems of the world. As is widely

recognized, civil law remains underrepresented among elected officials and my country certainly encourages the ICC to further implement measures to correct this imbalance.

Madam President,

This directly brings us to the issue of geographic balance in the composition of the Court staff. The Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries continues to be among the least well represented in the composition of the Court staff. This situation is a glaring example of the need for recruitment policies that pay proper attention to fair geographic representation. Let us not lose track of the fact that universality was one of the three main pillars around which the ICC was erected. In our understanding, the Court indeed needs to remain open to different languages, legal systems and to nationals from different countries of all regions.

It is our firm belief that the three pillars - universality, cooperation and complementarity - around which the Court was erected are deeply interconnected and reinforce each other. Brazil continues to be attentive to all requests it receives from the Court for judicial cooperation. When it comes to complementarity, Brazil recalls that the primary responsibility for the investigation and prosecution of international crimes committed under their jurisdictions should lie with States.

Madam President,

The noble values that guided the creation of the ICC require proper funding. Brazil is ready to work with other States Parties in order to try to reach consensus on the 2022 budget. Brazil believes, however, that further synergies between the Court's various organs should be explored, avoiding unnecessary duplication of efforts and enhancing efficiencies within the institution.

Madam President,

We take this opportunity to reiterate our support to the ICC and to the promotion of international criminal justice.

Many thanks.

