



TO THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ASP-ICC)

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

ON THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

GENERAL DEBATE

STATEMENT OF

H.E. MR. ALFONSO LOPEZ

PROSECUTOR GENERAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS,

TUESDAY 7, DECEMBER 2021

Madam President,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great privilege and honor for me to represent the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to address the twentieth session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the work done by the Judges, Prosecutors and the Secretariat of the International Criminal Court despite all obstacles and to highlight the important work done by the independent experts.

The work done by everyone during the many years of the Court's existence contributed to strengthening its importance and independence, and for this reason, we take the opportunity on behalf of Timor-Leste to welcome all these judicial actors with enthusiasm for their work.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express to all the delegates present here wishing for a fruitful work week.

Madam President,

One of the key values of the International Criminal Court is to ensure world peace and well-being and guarantee justice for the victims of the most serious crimes against humanity, preventing impunity for the criminals.

However it also has the virtue of supporting the approval of national legislation aimed at combating the most serious crimes against human rights.

Timor-Leste understands these virtues and because of the historical circumstances in which it had to restore its independence after a long period of occupation, it has therefore in the beginning adhered to the Rome Statute¹.

¹ Ratified through National Parliament Resolution No. 13/2002, of September, 6

In this regard, in our Penal Code², the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes³ are criminal acts, and therefore the criminal proceedings and prosecutions for these crimes are imprescriptible.

We have a legal and institutional framework that supports international criminal justice cooperation.

The Prosecutor General's Office through the Office of the International Judicial Cooperation which is the Central Authority, has the role to facilitate and strengthen international judicial cooperation in the fight against crime, and in particular the most serious crime.

Madam President,

Although still a relatively new country, Timor-Leste has made an effort to build a democratic rule of law, based on respect for the dignity of the human person and the state respects the constitution and the laws.

The new deputy prosecutors will be elected at this session. Therefore, we would like to wish them every success in advance.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming Timor-Leste's unwavering commitment to continuing to be a part of the Rome Statute and to contributing to maintaining the independence of the International Criminal Court and to providing the necessary collaboration for the performance of their functions with the assurance that in this way it will contribute to the construction of a global justice system based on respect for human rights

Thank you, Madam President.

² Decree-Law No. 19/2009, of April, 8

³ In book II, Special Part and Title I Crimes against Peace and Humanity, in articles 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129 and 130.