



New York, 24 June 2011

## **Accession of Tunisia to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Christian Wenaweser  
President of the Assembly of States Parties to  
the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court**

I am pleased to welcome Tunisia as the first North African State Party of the Rome Statute, the fourth member of the Arab League and the 116<sup>th</sup> State overall to join the Rome Statute.

Ratifying this founding document of the International Criminal Court has become a symbol of a country's commitment to the rule of law and the fight against impunity. I am very pleased to see that Tunisia has decided to send this strong message as an expression of a future on the basis of the rule of law. This is especially true for the most serious crimes under international law: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and aggression.

Tunisia's accession to the Rome Statute is also a testament of the profound changes brought about by the "Arab Spring," which started in Tunisia. It fulfills a central demand of peoples everywhere for societies guided by clear rules and the principle of equality before the law.

I hope very much that other countries will follow the very important example Tunisia is setting today.

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