



*PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM
OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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STATEMENT

OF

LESOTHO

TO THE

**SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES
PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)**

**14TH - 22ND NOVEMBER 2008
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS**

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Mr. President,

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like to begin by extending the warm felicitations of the Lesotho Delegation to you all and to congratulate you Mr. President Ambassador Christian Wenawesar for your election to preside over the work of this Seventh Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Our congratulations also go to the President of the Court Judge Phillipe Kirsch for his elaborate presentation of the court's report to the plenary of the General Assembly on the 30th day of October 2008. We recommend the Registrar, Prosecutor and the entire staff of the Secretariat for tremendous achievements done so far in the due process of discharging International Criminal Justice.

Mr. President,

My country is committed to the mandate of the ICC and will continue to support the endeavours at ensuring an effective, impartial, non selective, efficient and just International Criminal Court which promotes and protects the interests of all the States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Mr. President,

It is the considered view of my delegation that the Court has already demonstrated its positive impact in determining the perpetration of systematic atrocities. Thus strengthening the system of international justice and making an important contribution in the search for peace and promotion of democracy and the rule of law. It will be noted however, that these tangible milestones are being realized by the ICC despite its shortcomings having limited powers in some instances. To my delegation this only reiterates the importance of the UN and State cooperation for the future effectiveness of the Court.

Mr. President,

It is indeed gratifying to note that more and more states are becoming Parties to the Rome Statute. This is an important step towards universal application and full implementation of the Rome Statute. Indeed, Universality is imperative if we are to end impunity and have lasting respect for an enforcement of international justice. It is becoming evident with this kind of

support that international justice is embraced by progressive nations of all regions and legal systems.

Mr. President,

There are recorded positive actions being pursued by the Prosecutor of the Court in the DRC, Darfur and Central African Republic. The success of the Court will send a strong message to the International Community that there will be no impunity for those who would commit crimes against humanity, genocide or war crimes.

Mr. President,

To ensure the best possible performance by the court, States should provide it with the financial, logistical and political support it needs to perform its work, thus enabling the ICC to realize the rule of law and punishment for crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. States Parties must also ensure that assessed contributions are paid in full and on time. Voluntary contributions are encouraged as an important source of revenue.

Mr. President,

Lesotho believes that, in order for the court to fully function, it needs the assistance and cooperation of States to apprehend inductees, collect evidence, or execute its sentences. It is thus, critically important that the court receive the full cooperation of States, the relevant regional organizations and UN Operations. In this regard, my delegation commends the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its surrender of Mr. Germain Katanga to the Court on 18th October 2007.

Mr. President,

The Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the ICC provides many avenues for mutually beneficial cooperative efforts to establish the rule of law and end impunity. Ending crimes of impunity requires determined cooperation by interlocutors who have international peace, justice and security as their common goals and ambition. Cooperation is necessary in the field of communication, transportation, logistics and security including protection of victims, witnesses and investigators and providing access to suspects and enabling the collection of evidence and documents.

Mr. President,

The establishment of the Court was the most significant development in recent years when concerted efforts are made by the international community to fight and eradicate impunity. There can be no lasting peace without justice, and justice and peace are thus complementary requirements. It is in this regard that my delegation will continue to strive for universal adherence to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The President of the Court (Judge Phillipe Kirsch) in his address to the General Assembly in New York emphasized the fact that cooperation between the Court and the United Nations and cooperation by States, International and Regional Organisations are fundamental to an effective and efficient functioning court. It became very evident from the report of the ICC and the subsequent debate in the General Assembly the significant role the ICC plays in our common multilateral system in eradicating impunity, establishing the rule of law, promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and maintaining international peace and Security, is of paramount importance.

In conclusion, I cannot let this opportunity go by without mentioning our word of appreciation and congratulations to the ICC, because this year 2008 marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the ICC. It is in this spirit that the Lesotho delegation wishes to reiterate its undoubted support for maintaining and upholding the rule of law, respect for human rights and last but certainly not least, promotion of democratic principles and equitable dispensation of justice.

I thank you for your attention.