



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

**BY**

**HE. MR. LEBOHANG FINE MAEMA, KC  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO  
TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS**

**AT**

**THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES  
TO THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

**3<sup>RD</sup> December, New York**

**Please check against delivery**

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 Bruno Stagno Ugarte for your election to preside over the work of this Sixth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2007. We commend 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 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 of 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 and 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 in 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 legal 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 fields 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,

My delegation notes with appreciation that the interplay between the different courts and tribunals in the international criminal justice system is important for the development of sustainable criminal justice jurisprudence. I cannot let this opportunity go by without mentioning the cooperation between the ICC and the Ad Hoc Special court for Sierra Leone, in the transfer of former Liberian President, Mr. Charles Taylor, from detention in Sierra Leone to ICC detention facilities in The Hague, there to be tried by Judges of the Special Court. This is a welcome development in the furtherance of international criminal justice.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to emphasize the fact that cooperation between the court and the United Nations, Governments, International and Regional Organizations is fundamental to an effective and efficient functioning court. In this manner the ICC will continue to play a significant role in our common multilateral system in eradicating impunity and establishing the rule of law, promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and maintaining International Peace and Security.

I thank you for your attention.