

**STATEMENT
TO BE DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN STATES
PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT ON THE REVIEW OF
THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT AND THE ROME
STATUTE SYSTEM**

21st SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

**Delivered by M. NENE Bi Zah
Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire**

New York, 7th December 2022

**Madam President,
State Party Representatives of the Review Mechanism,**

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The African States Parties to the Rome Statute welcome this plenary session on the Review Mechanism as a platform for exchange of views on the review process, the work and the future of the Review Mechanism, as well as the Independent Expert Review (“IER”) recommendations.

We take this opportunity to commend the Review Mechanism for carrying out its mandate with transparency and inclusiveness.

We thank the Review Mechanism for its important accomplishments thus far: In addition to the categorization of the Independent Experts Recommendations; the Report on the overall progress and the Comprehensive Action Plan achieved last session, we acknowledge the completed assessment of the majority of the IER recommendations. We take this opportunity to express our satisfaction with the Bureau for adopting the proposal on the implementation of IER recommendation 169 on strategy to respond to attacks on the Court by non-States Parties. This is another action-oriented concrete outcome of the review process.

The African States Parties also take note, with satisfaction, of the Report of the Review Mechanism and the Matrix which take into account and reflects the consultations made with the States Parties, the Court and all stakeholders. We appreciate that the Report of the Mechanism, included the reflections of the discussions in the roundtables on working culture, gender balance and equitable geographical representation in the recruitment of staff of the Court. These remain issues of high priority to the African States Parties.

As invited by the Review Mechanism to consider options for the way forward for the review process, the African States Parties support the call for specific Assembly mandates or facilitation for issues such as workplace culture and victims. In recalling that the Review Mechanism was not established as a permanent basis, and in view of the initial intention not to create new bodies in the review process, the African States Parties take note of the need for continuing oversight on the implementation of the positively assessed recommendations, and the practical aspects of recommendations that were not assessed positively, including the issues relating to the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties.

Madam President,

The African States Parties continue to attach great importance to the work of the Review Mechanism of ICC and the Rome Statute system. In this connection, we reaffirm our commitment to the review process for the strengthening of the Court and its effectiveness through, inter alia, good governance, the principle of complementarity, cooperation, and promotion of equitable geographical representation and gender balance.

Therefore, we support the review of the ICC and the Rome Statute system, and the work of the Review Mechanism, and we remain engaged and fully committed in this important review process. In this regard, the African States Parties reiterate the African Union Heads of State and Government Decision on the ICC urging for engagement in the review process and to address the issue of politicization of the Court.

To conclude, **Madam President**, the African States Parties remain convinced, in their hope, that our collective efforts in the review of the ICC and the Rome Statute system as well as the work of the Review Mechanism will contribute to strengthening the Court and the Rome Statute system in its effectiveness, legitimacy, and capacity to deliver effective justice and end impunity for atrocity crimes.

I thank you all for your attention.