



Reference: ASP/2023/40

The Hague, 26 April 2023

Excellencies,

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court will be commemorated on 17 July 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The commemoration is intended to celebrate this extraordinary achievement of the international community, to provide visibility and enhance political support for the Rome Statute system, and to reflect on its future.

The morning segment of the commemorative event will include a treaty ceremony for the deposit of instruments of ratification or accession to the Rome Statute, its amendments and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities, as well as the conclusion of voluntary cooperation agreements with the Court.

I would like to encourage those States who have not yet done so to join the Rome Statute system by ratifying or acceding to the Statute, its amendments or the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities. I also encourage States to consider using the opportunity of this commemoration to sign voluntary cooperation agreements with the Court, which are extremely important for the conduct of proceedings. In this regard I underscore the need to increase the current number of voluntary agreements, including in particular voluntary agreements on interim release.

I kindly ask States intending to take any of these treaty actions to contact the Secretariat asp@icc-cpi.int as soon as possible, preferably before 15 June, so that arrangements can be made for the ceremony in New York.

Sincerely,

Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi
President
Assembly of States Parties
International Criminal Court