



# AUSTRALIA



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

**Wednesday 14 December 2011**

### **General Debate Statement on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ)**

**Delivered by Dr Greg French, Assistant Secretary, International  
Legal Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,  
Australia**

**(Check against delivery)**

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Madame President,

It is my honour to speak today on behalf of the CANZ group – Canada, Australia and New Zealand. It is also my honour to express CANZ's deep gratitude for the superb leadership of this Assembly by outgoing President, Ambassador Christian Wenaweser, as well as his outgoing Vice-Presidents, Ambassador Lomonaco and Ambassador Miculescu, and to welcome you, Madame President, to your new role. We very much look forward to working with you and your Vice-Presidents.

2011 has been a year of landmark developments for the Court. Seven more States have joined us, bringing closer our objective of universalising the Rome Statute. The Security Council made a second referral of a situation to the Court, thereby acknowledging the important role played by the Court in the contemporary international peace and security architecture. We have seen the first former Head of State appear before the Court. And the Court has completed hearings in its first trial. Viewed from any angle, the Court has gone from strength to strength over the last 12 months.

Madame President,

Just as it is important to celebrate the high points of the last 12 months, it is important to recognise that more can and must be done. This Assembly provides us with an opportunity to do just that. Given the Court's ability to fulfil its mandate to address the most serious crimes of international concern is dependent upon the cooperation of States, CANZ sees the proposed Assembly procedures on non-cooperation as an important initiative. We urge all States Parties to support the adoption of these procedures.

We similarly urge States Parties to support the omnibus resolution language that requests the Court to finalise its review of the Strategy on Victims and requests the Court to conduct a review of the victim participation system with a view to ensuring its sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency. We urge States Parties to support the proposed amendment to Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence to provide the Presidency with the ability to ensure that judges are allocated to Divisions in a way that takes best advantage of the differing experiences and qualifications of judges.

In addition, there will be a focus this year on ways to ensure the Court is able to do its work as effectively and efficiently as possible. In relation to the Budget, we urge States Parties to support the recommendations of the Committee on Budget and Finance as a starting point for discussions. The report of the Committee raises a number of important suggestions, including the question of whether the Court could make better use of international rosters, such as Justice Rapid Response. We welcome these suggestions.

CANZ recognises the importance of a fully operational Independent Oversight Mechanism. We urge States Parties to commit to working to enable the full operationalisation of this important mechanism at the next Assembly.

Madame President,

This Assembly marks a period of change for the ICC. Not only are we now under your leadership, but we will soon welcome six new judges to the Court's bench. In this context, CANZ thanks each of the outgoing judges for their efforts. Of course, this meeting marks our last opportunity to bid farewell as an Assembly to Prosecutor Louis Moreno Ocampo, whom we thank for the leadership he has brought to this important position in the Court's formative years. And we welcome the ICC's new Prosecutor, Mrs Fatou Bensouda, whom we congratulate on her election. We have every confidence that Mrs Bensouda will provide outstanding leadership as the Office of the Prosecutor enters the next phase of the Court's development.

Madame President,

Canada, New Zealand and Australia look forward to working with all States Parties to advance our common cause of ending impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern.