

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court
Address to the Tenth Session of the Assembly States Parties
14 December 2011

Madame la Présidente,
Excellences,
Mesdames et Messieurs

J'ai le plaisir de prendre la parole au nom de la Coalition pour la Cour Pénale Internationale et je me joins aux orateurs précédents qui vous ont félicité pour votre élection en tant que Présidente de l'Assemblée des Etats Parties, mes félicitations aussi à tous les nouveaux membres du bureau.

Madame President,
Distinguished diplomats and NGO representatives,

This year has been a challenging and yet momentous one for the Court. The unanimous referral of the Libya situation by the Security Council and the initiation of the ICC's seventh investigation into election related violence in Cote d'Ivoire, following the acceptance of the Court's jurisdiction by the Ivorian government, are yet further indications of the growing level of confidence that is being placed in the rule of law and international justice. The ratifications by six States this year, a record number serve to further illustrate that States around the world are increasingly rejecting impunity in favor of accountability.

However, as the Court's influence and workload grows in the coming years it is crucial that States Parties recognize the Court cannot function without the requisite support and assistance, both financially and politically. As custodians of the Rome Statute, States Parties must commit to unwavering support to the Court and international justice, through all relevant bilateral and international efforts, including at the United Nations and other international and regional organizations. This support goes hand in hand with that of strong financial support. The Court's role in ending impunity cannot be realized if it does not have the resources required to undertake this task. This includes not only ensuring resources for thorough investigations and trials, but resources that enable the Court to communicate and engage with those most impacted by its work. In this regard we express extreme concern at the prospect of cuts below what the ASP's Committee on Budget and Finance has recommended. A transparent and strong budget would not only guarantee the Court's efficiency but also its independence and integrity. It is the integrity of the Rome Statute process and judicial and prosecutorial independence of the Court enshrined in the Rome Statute, which the Coalition has sought to ensure since its creation, that is of the utmost importance.

When we gather again late next year in what will be the tenth anniversary of this institution, we should take full advantage of the presence of such a diverse collection of governments and civil

society organizations and discuss how we can achieve real and tangible progress with the Rome Statute system, both in terms of encouraging universality and complementarity, but also strengthening cooperation with the Court. The long term promise of the Court will only come to fruition if we retain a long term commitment to seeking universality, beyond the already impressive 120, to a time when all states, large and small, powerful and less so are part of this Court. Likewise, we welcome all stakeholders interested in complementarity to do their part, in countries all around the world, to strengthen national justice systems to do the job we all need and want them to do: ensure national accountability for grave crimes.

The Coalition will participate in the 10th anniversary celebrations with a view to addressing what we would want the ICC to look like in 2022, the twentieth anniversary. There will be many different visions for sure, but as stated above we can promise that the Coalition will continue, above all else, to fight to protect and advance the independence of the judges and Prosecutor.

Madame President,

This assembly session has seen the most important elections since its first in 2002, elections which the Coalition has worked towards being merit based. I would like to take this opportunity then to congratulate you and the new Prosecutor Elect, Ms. Fatou Bensouda, who is no stranger to the work of the Coalition, and with whom we look forward to continuing working with on the many important challenges the Court will face in the future.

Thank you.