

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

- GENERAL DEBATE -

Statement by Romania

H.E. Ambassador

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**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania
to the Kingdom of The Netherlands**

The Hague

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Monsieur le Président,

Permettez-moi de commencer par rendre hommage à toutes les victimes du terrorisme dans le monde entier. Les coupables ne doivent absolument pas échapper à la justice.

La délégation de la Roumanie veut transmettre son appréciation et vous féliciter pour vos efforts et le dévouement que vous avez montrés dans votre activité au cours de cette année. De même, nous vous assurons de l'appui continu en tant que Président de l'Assemblée des Etats Parties.

We have witnessed, in 2015, an intense activity of the Court. The fundamental challenge for the efficiency of the ICC remains, in our view, the necessity to ensure full and prompt cooperation with the Court and, in particular, the need to react to instances of non-cooperation of States that are in violation of their obligations in this regard. Non-cooperation with the ICC in respect of the execution of arrest warrants undermines the activity of the Court and seriously affects the credibility of the act of justice. Therefore, we urge all states to enhance their efforts to cooperate with the Court, including with respect to outstanding arrest warrants.

As regards the *universality* of the Rome Statute of the ICC, this year marked Palestine's accession to the Rome Statute and Ukraine's declaration lodged under art. 12 paragraph 3 of the Rome Statute, accepting the jurisdiction of the ICC for acts committed on its territory, since 20 February 2014. We continue to encourage all States to become parties to the Rome Statute. We acknowledge the various obstacles to the ratification of the ICC Statute, which requires joint, continuous and adapted efforts in order to overcome them, taking into account the particularities of each case. Universality remains, from our perspective, the most powerful preventive approach to war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

The principle of complementarity underlines the fundamental obligation of States Parties to properly implement the Rome Statute in their national systems, as well as their primary duty to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the most serious crimes of international concern. Therefore, its effective implementation is particularly

important for the potential of the Rome Statute system to render justice, to be fully achieved.

Romania welcomes the special focus on cooperation, complementarity and efficiency and effectiveness of court proceedings, with special plenary discussions during this meeting of the ASP. We are ready to listen to the concerns and engage in an open and constructive dialogue, while fully taking into account the necessity of not affecting the independence of the Court in the conduct of its judicial and prosecutorial functions. All parties must refrain from interfering with the judicial process, while the highest standards of a fair trial must be ensured.

We further welcome the ceremony of handing over the new permanent premises of the Court in The Hague, Netherlands on the 12 November 2015, a moment which marks an important milestone for the ICC as a permanent international institution. We welcome the move of Court into its new home in the coming month. I am glad to mention that, in the first half of this year, the Romanian authorities paid the contribution for the new permanent premises of the ICC. We feel the need of more clarity and predictability on the necessary payments which member States must contribute for the financing of the permanent premises of the ICC since States must take informed decisions on the basis of an analysis of the options and of the anticipated residual obligations. Therefore, the formulas used in defining the options must be rigorous.

The Romanian delegation would like to express our appreciation for all efforts done at managerial level, which do not entail statutory changes, aimed at improving judicial practice and enhance efficiency of procedures. We would also like to welcome the adoption of the OTP Strategic Plan for 2016-2018, which should further develop the Office's performance and adapt it to existing challenges.

Romania is aware of the importance of ensuring sufficient *financial* resources for sustainable functioning of the Court as an independent judicial body. At the same time, it is also essential to ensure a thoughtful budget management, thus making an efficient use of the Court's resources.

Last but not least, I would like to express my delegation's deep gratitude to the members of the *non-governmental organizations* in the field, for their constant and tireless involvement in supporting the activity of the ICC, in promoting its scope and its universal values. Their constant and tireless work should be greatly appreciated.

Mr. President,

Let me reiterate that Romania is a traditional and constant promoter of the international criminal justice and will continue to strongly support the activity of the International Criminal Court, which is crucial for the international peace and justice.

Romania fully aligns itself to the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.