

**STATEMENT OF CHILE BEFORE THE XV ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

Mr. President,

Just like the States present at this Assembly, Chile actively and decisively adheres to the Court and its purposes. We did so from the start of the process leading to the adoption of the Rome Statute. Along with realizing how much progress has been made, we are also aware of the challenges that we face today and that call upon us to reflect on them.

Having chosen this path, we have assumed a crucial commitment. Now is the time to demonstrate it by supporting the Court and working to assure States that are not yet Parties to the Rome Statute, that the Court is a relevant institution meant to strengthen fundamental principles, and that its effectiveness and standing in our international system also depends on the work of the States Parties. Joining, ratifying and participating in the work of this Assembly are paths we can walk to achieve universality and reinforce the validity of the Statute.

In this regard, we wish to welcome El Salvador as a new State Party, a country that knows well what it means to progress in matters of truth and justice. We are pleased to invite El Salvador to go on with us on this path. Together we need to reflect on how to overcome the complexities that arise as States Parties. We know that the challenge ahead of us is not an easy one and only by supporting each other, will we be able to achieve it.

In this context regrettably, we have received the announcements of some States withdrawal from the Rome Statute. This set of circumstances has led us to reflect on how much work we still have to do, Court and States, by evoking the purpose of why we are gathered in this room. Thus, we would like reiterate the unquestionable adherence of all of us here present as observed at the time of adoption of the Rome Statute.

As far as we are concerned, we are here because we believe that the value of justice is defended by solid and legitimate institutions such as the International Criminal Court, whose jurisdiction is complementary to that of States. The Court is also a pillar of reference for peace processes and transitional justice, providing tools for the tireless combat against impunity. Its role in protecting the victims of the most atrocious crimes that affect the conscience of humanity is also a value of its Statute.

We want to be present in this Assembly because we believe in the rule of law and respect for human rights. We call on all the States represented to intensify the dialogue within this Assembly, within the framework of the Statute by using all the channels it provides us for this purpose.

Mr. President,

On September 23, Chile deposited the instrument of ratification of the Kampala Amendments, becoming the 32nd State to ratify them.

In the process that may lead us to adopt, after January 1, 2017, the decisions for the activation of the jurisdiction of the Court on the crime of aggression, Chile wishes to participate in a constructive way and with the input of all of us.

Mr. President,

Bearing in mind that a vigorous and respected Court shows its legal and moral power and is an absolute deterrent medium, we want to call for the support of the Court's work and for strengthening the stances of cooperation with it. The Court is in need of our collaboration without which its purpose is seriously affected.

We believe that in the area of cooperation, further progress should be attained in the work articulating efforts to be made by the States concerned, which is expressed in relation to contexts referred by the Security Council.

In this regard, we would like to call on to take into account the use of the mechanisms provided by the Statute for countries facing difficulties before a Court request, to make use of the corresponding consultations and address their approaches in this way, seeking to overcome all difficulties which they may find in the exercise of their obligations.

Mr. President,

Being consistent with the Court's high character and the wide range of its responsibilities, we wish to reiterate the importance of equipping the Court with the necessary human and material resources thus enabling it to execute its mandate. At a time when the Court jurisdictional activity has increased considerably, we must ensure that it is provided with sufficient resources and in this regard, we look forward to the most efficient use of those resources.

Also, we wish to express our support for the Court's efforts to establish indicators in the exercise of its functions, as well as for the fruitful dialogue it has held with States through various mechanisms, including the Study Group on Governance, which together with the distinguished Ambassador of Japan, honours us to chair in The Hague. To the best of our abilities, we will remain committed to smooth the progress of formulas designed to increase the effectiveness of the Court, and the commitment of States to it.

Mr President,

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the work of the International Criminal Court and reiterate our genuine support, with the conviction that we have created a sound and legitimate institution in the struggle against impunity and in favour of justice at the service of persons and of the rule of law.
