

Check against delivery

At the Sixteenth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Dec.6, 2017

(Greeting)

Mr. President,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to President Sidiki and vice Presidents, the Bureau, the Working Groups and the Secretariat of the Assembly for their preparations for this 16th Session of the Assembly of States Parties.

I also would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the newly-elected President, Kwon-Ogon. We hope that President-elect Kwon will elevate the profile of the Rome Statute system as a robust bulwark against the abuse of human rights and heinous crimes of international concern.

The Republic of Korea would also like to make a special note of the accomplishments of the Court's President, Silvia Fernandez de Gurmendi, in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Court and improving its governance.

(20th anniversary and achievements of the ICC)

Mr. President,

We are now looking towards the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Rome Statute next year. As we reflect upon the past 20 years and the headway made so far, I believe that we have travelled a long way.

Despite skepticism at its inception, the Rome Statute system has undoubtedly contributed to promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights by holding the most serious criminals accountable and providing the most vulnerable with the access to justice.

(Achievements of the TFV),

My delegation highly values the role of the Trust Fund for Victims. We believe that the reparations scheme under the Statute is not only unique, but also fundamental to the success of the Court. The TFV has successfully complemented the court-ordered reparations awards in several cases and I am confident that the Fund will encourage more victims to come forward and

seek justice through the Rome Statute system and thereby help promote restorative justice.

My delegation would like to take note of the result of the Paris conference last October, where international financial cooperation to track and seize the assets of those convicted of the most serious crimes under the Rome Statute was discussed. We believe that this initiative is timely and meaningful, as it will hold the perpetrators of the gravest crimes accountable for their atrocities and prevent them from hiding their proceeds of crime.

(Promotion of Universality)

In spite of the notable achievements, the ICC also faces several challenges. For years we have seen stagnant growth in the number of new members of the ICC. This year, for the first time ever, one State Party even withdrew from the Rome Statute. My delegation would like to emphasize that sincere dialogue and outreach efforts are needed to alleviate the concerns of some current and potential State Parties.

The Republic of Korea regards achieving the universality of the Rome Statute as a priority of the ICC. In this vein, Korea worked closely with the ICC to hold the eighth high-level regional seminar in Seoul last April. It was a useful platform for exploring opportunities to promote more participation by non-State Parties and to increase awareness of the Court's mandate and activities.

Korea will continue to make efforts to reach out to non-State Parties and encourage their ratification of the Rome Statute. In particular, my delegation is fully aware that only 19 countries in the Asia-Pacific region have joined the Rome Statute, so we will closely cooperate with the ICC and ASP to promote participation in this region.

(Under-representation in the Recruitment)

Lastly, the Republic of Korea takes note of the report of the Bureau on equitable geographical representation and gender balance in the recruitment of staff of the ICC. We would likely to draw attention to the conclusion of the report that observed

the chronic nature of the imbalanced representation in the Court in disfavour of countries and regions, in particular from Asia-Pacific and Latin American and the Caribbean. We call upon the Court and the ASP to pay more attention to this under-representation, and we will work closely with the interested parties to endeavor to resolve this issue.

(Closing Remarks)

On this occasion, my delegation would like to reaffirm the deep commitment of the Republic of Korea to give its full support to the activities and objectives of the ICC.

Thank you.

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