



'Mujib Year's Diplomacy, Friendship & Prosperity'

**Statement by
H. E. Mr M Riaz Hamidullah
Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of the Netherlands
And the Permanent Representative to the ICC
at the 20th Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute
of the International Criminal Court (ICC)**

The Hague, 6-11 December 2021

*Madame President,
Hon'ble President of the Court
Prosecutor Mr. Khan
Excellencies,*

Our warm felicitation to you, Madame, for your stewardship as the President of the Assembly. Your wisdom and stewardship would surely lead us to a productive outcome.

Our warm welcome to Mr. Karim Khan, as the new Prosecutor. He surely would take the standing and credibility of the Court with the wisdom and vast experience.

We also recall the contributions of the preceding Prosecutor, Madame Fatou Bensouda, for her exemplary contribution.

Madame President,

In the interest of time, we would circulate the full text of our National Statement to the Secretariat for posting on the site.

Let me underline a few key aspects.

Bangladesh's commitment to the principle of **justice and accountability** and our support to the Court as an independent and impartial judicial institution, emanates from our own independence and history.

After two decades of functioning of ICC, it is crucial for international community to see the Court can effectively deter the culture of impunity. We ought to continue to strive on the **universalization of the Rome Statute**. It is so very necessary to uphold rule of law, everywhere.

We all are pledge-bound in ensuring that perpetrators of the humanity's most heinous crimes are brought to justice. Yet, despite our resolute commitment, it is tragic that, in **Myanmar**, genocidal acts unfolded against the Rohingya population in the Rakhine State. Last month, UN General Assembly adopted a **consensus Resolution on Myanmar situation**. Pursuant to Article 15 of the Rome Statute, **those responsible for large-scale deportation**

of the Rohingya people to Bangladesh from the Rakhine State must be brought to justice; and be made accountable. Especially, when persecution still continues within Myanmar against ethnic minorities. The Court's expeditious actions should help creating crucial enabling environment in the Rakhine State. We look forward to OTP and other organs of the Court to sustain momentum in the investigation process.

Bangladesh has all along engaged with the authorities in Myanmar in good faith, sincerity and transparency. As we ask for Justice and Accountability for Rohingyas, our intention was infused with the complementarity principle of the Rome Statute and the genocide and crimes against humanity Bangladesh itself went through during our War of Liberation in 1971.

ICC is now an integral part for global discourse on upholding rule of law. There has to be a logical interface in realising the Agenda 2030, particularly SDG 16. If we are to further strengthen our existing national laws in conformity with our obligations under Rome Statute, the States Parties and regional and international organizations would benefit in working towards effectively realising SDG 16, in furthering complementarity mandate of the Rome Statute.

ICC is expected to expand innovative programmes and engagement under Cooperation and Outreach activities. While Bangladesh appreciates the Court's initiatives to ensure geographic diversity and gender balance in recruitment of the staff of the Court, all means need to be creatively exhausted to secure desired geographic diversity and gender balance in the Court's staff-composition. ICC would need to strengthen its efforts to promote participation of nationals of under-represented and non-represented States Parties in **Internship, Visiting Professionals and JPO Programmes** of the Court.

Resourcing the Court is key. We would reiterate what the Prosecutor emphasised in the morning Plenary – for all States Parties to adequately resource the Court so that the task entrusted on it are fully accomplished.

The reparative role of ICC is a matter of some solace to the victims of atrocity crimes. Our support remains for the new Board of Directors of TFV to expand its appreciable work in supporting the fateful victims of atrocity crimes, worldwide.

Finally, our appreciation to Ambassador Paul van den Ijssel and Ambassador Kanu for their leadership in steering the Review Mechanism, in a focussed manner. As an Ad-country focal point, Bangladesh continues to lend her modest bit. Bangladesh would urge all to continue contributing in this State Party driven Mechanism process in the next phases.

Bangladesh had been at the forefront of the global campaign for the early adoption of the Rome Statute and creation of ICC. As a functioning democracy, Bangladesh remains firm in realising a just – inclusive – responsible – harmonious world. Our collective works must be geared towards ending impunity for the perpetrators of the world's most heinous crimes. Justice and accountability must not be a matter of choice.

I thank you.

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