

## **International Criminal Court**

Twentieth Session of the  
Assembly of States Parties  
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Statement on behalf of

**Germany**

by

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Dr. Cyrill Nunn

The Hague, 7 December 2011

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**Madam President,**

**I am honoured to address the Assembly of States Parties. The Federal Republic of Germany fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. Please allow me to add some comments in our national capacity.**

**First of all, Germany commends you as President of the Assembly and the team of the Bureau as well as the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the ASP in these difficult times. I would like to congratulate you for having assumed this important position, as well as the Prosecutor and the Judges who were elected during the last session of the Assembly. Germany pledges its full support for your important work.**

**Madam President,**

**We highly appreciate the International Criminal Court as a solid and integral part of today's international legal order with its unique mandate to bring justice and fight impunity. Next year on 1 July, we will mark the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute in 2002. This is an encouraging success and also a common objective: International crimes must not go unpunished and their perpetrators must be held accountable.**

**On behalf of my Government, I would like to express my gratitude to all who contribute to the success of the Rome Statute: Today and throughout this week, you and the Assembly of States Parties; and throughout the whole year, of course, the Judges, the Prosecutor, the Registry and all staff members as well as the civil society worldwide.**

**Still, we should also remain modest: The Court's scope is still not universal – and atrocity crimes have escaped responsibility and investigation as well as trials. Therefore, we assure the Court of our lasting support for its work. In our view, the Court's success will depend on the general support of two double pillars:**

**Primarily: Independence and impartiality.**

**We remain absolutely convinced that there should not be outside interference or pressure relating to the independence and impartiality of the Court. Outside interference or pressure has no place in the work of the Court.**

**In another perspective, we would like to encourage the Court to avail itself of the opportunity to benefit from the advice of independent experts: within the ongoing review process, Germany remains committed to further improving the Court and its mechanisms. We call upon the Court and all parties involved to analyse and act upon the resulting recommendations - strengthening efficiency and effectiveness is in the Court's own interest.**

**This brings me to my second double pillar: We as States Parties and the Court will need to stay ambitious and active:**

**As to the budget, we have for many years advocated a solid budget process.**

**I am fully aware that this is a financial challenge especially in times of the pandemic. Also under these circumstances, we remain a steady supporter of the ICC and a large contributor to the ICC's budget.**

**At the same time, we share the concern of many other States Parties about the high amount of arrears. We urge all States Parties to provide the ICC with the necessary financial resources. As the Court's workload continues to increase, we cannot expect it to deliver high quality international justice without adequate capacities.**

**Madam President,**

**allow me to recall the Court's critical role in providing a forum for victims to air their grievances and seek redress. In our view, it is also important to secure additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Victims.**

**Germany has consistently made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Victims as well as the Trust Fund for Family Visits. I am glad to inform you that my Government is continuing this practice and will contribute another 125,000 Euros altogether to these Trust Funds this year.**

**Madam President,**

**we are of the view that the Court also merits the full political support as well as practical cooperation and assistance of States. The ICC's mandate can only be achieved collectively by the Court, States Parties as well as civil society. Our contributions must safeguard the judicial independence of the Court and the integrity of the Rome Statute.**

**Let us move forward together in rendering the Court even stronger.**

**Thank you, Madam President.**