



Assembly of the States Parties to the  
Statute of the International Criminal Court

**International Criminal Justice Day 2017**

**Striving for universality of the Rome Statute:  
The criminalization of aggressive war-making and ensuring greater  
protection for the victims of the most serious crimes**

**Monday, 17 July 2017, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
United Nations Headquarters, conference room 6**

Opening remarks:

H.E. Mr. Kristian Jensen, Minister of Finance, Denmark

Moderators:

H.E. Mr. Sebastiano Cardi, Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN and Vice President of the Assembly of States Parties

H.E. Mr. Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the UN

Panelists:

Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (video message)

Ms. Irene Khan, Director-General, International Development Law Organization

Mr. David Donat Cattin, Secretary-General, Parliamentarians for Global Action

Mr. David Tolbert, President, International Center for Transitional Justice

Mr. Scott Bartell, Acting Legal Adviser and Programme Manager, ICC Trust Fund for Victims

### Background and format:

International Criminal Justice Day, which was established at the 2010 Kampala Review Conference, is celebrated every 17 July and marks the day the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) was adopted in 1998. In less than two decades, 124 States have joined the Rome Statute, and thus made a public legal commitment to ending impunity for the worst crimes under international law. Moreover, in a strong show of support for the criminalization of illegal war-making at the international level, 34 ICC States Parties have ratified the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression. While these numbers are certainly encouraging, broadening the reach of the ICC is necessary to effectively combat impunity for the most serious crimes and to deter their commission in the first place.

A relevant aspect of the Rome Statute system, which is often left out of discussions, is the recognition the Statute affords to victims. The ICC is the first international court to allow for the active participation of victims in its proceedings and provide reparations through a dedicated Trust Fund for Victims (TFV). The significance of victim participation and reparations should not go unnoticed, as the ultimate aim of international justice should be to improve the situation of victims of international crimes and to prevent crimes being committed in the first place. Moreover, emphasis will be given to the fact that the Trust Fund mandate includes assistance to victims and, in this regard, for example, the TFV has been implementing assistance programmes for nine years in Uganda and the DRC.

After the opening remarks, a video that has been created by Denmark and the Republic of Cyprus for their joint 'Universality of the Rome Statute' social media campaign will be pre-screened (the official launch of the campaign and debut of the video is set for 21 July 2017).

In view of international justice day 2017, the panel will discuss the importance of continuing to strive for universality of the Rome Statute as well as the historical significance of the upcoming decision of the Assembly of States Parties to activate the ICC's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression. The discussion will afford particular attention to some of the avenues victims of the most serious international crimes can find both within and beyond the Rome Statute system.

The meeting is open to all delegations. **To reserve a place on the informal speaking list as well as for any further questions, please contact:** Mr. Sina Alavi ([sa@nycl.llv.li](mailto:sa@nycl.llv.li) | 212-599-0220).