



**Coalition for the International Criminal Court Review Team Statement**  
**Plenary Session on the Review Process of the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the ICC Assembly of States Parties**  
13 December 2023

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Coalition for the ICC (Coalition)'s issue team on the International Criminal Court (ICC) Review, which was established in early 2021 in an effort to coordinate civil society efforts around the complex and overwhelming Independent Expert Review (IER) process, and develop advocacy to that aim. Coalition members from all around the world have remained actively engaged in the process since its inception.

First, we would like to express our gratitude to Ambassador Michael Kanu (Sierra Leone) and Ambassador Paul van den Ijssel (The Netherlands) for effectively and consistently shepherding us through the many recommendations through the Review Mechanism, and for ensuring the inclusive access and participation of civil society in the Review Mechanism process, via online meetings and the provision of interpretation in French and in English. Civil society, and particularly civil society organizations and human rights defenders from countries where the Court is active, bring valuable perspectives to the table as a key stakeholder in the process, as they are first-hand documenters, provide support to victims and serve as key links with affected communities.

They also experience first-hand the shortcomings of the Court. They share expertise and best practices on many if not all of the issues on the agenda of the Review Mechanism and Review process, in particular on outreach and communications; victims' rights and participation; and complementarity efforts, to give just a few examples.

The Review process has been a long and comprehensive one. As we have reached the end of the assessment phase, it will be essential to ensure that the implementation of positively assessed recommendations, as well as the monitoring of their implementation, remain ongoing to ensure genuine progress continues. The next phase of the Review process should not be a simple box-ticking exercise ending with the assessment of the recommendations this year. Related, efforts to improve the performance of the Court and the overall impact of the Rome Statute system should continue indefinitely, building on the progress achieved in the Review process thus far.

And finally, with the extension of the mandate of the Review Mechanism in 2024, we recommend the following fundamental principles continue to guide the process:

First, **transparency**, to ensure legitimacy and credibility of the process, including by the regular and consistent communication about progress and next steps made available in different languages and ensuring the inclusive access of all stakeholders to meetings.

Second, and related, **inclusive and meaningful engagement with stakeholders**. Civil society has been an essential stakeholder in the Review process since its conception, a practice which must continue, including by the translation of documents, interpretation in meetings and organization of meetings accessible to civil society across the world.

Third and finally, the process must continue to **respect the Court's judicial and prosecutorial independence**, and take into consideration the limited resources at its disposition.

We look forward to continuing our fruitful engagement with the Review process in 2024.

Thank you.