

27 September 2018 (for immediate release)

**Press release by the Members of the Informal Ministerial Network for  
the International Criminal Court**

At the annual meeting of the Informal Ministerial Network for the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Members celebrated the milestone 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rome Statute and reiterated their commitment to the ICC as the centerpiece of the international criminal justice system. The Court is a fundamental part of a rules-based order.

In a roundtable discussion with the ICC Prosecutor, Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Members of the Network described the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998 as a moment of collective commitment to the fight against impunity and underscored the necessity of making the Rome Statute a universal treaty. The Members recommitted themselves to working towards universality of the Rome Statute and to making use of all appropriate diplomatic channels and occasions to this end.

The Members also recalled the importance of the Court's principle of complementarity – the ICC is a court of last resort, which only steps in if the national judiciaries are unwilling or unable to investigate and prosecute. The Court's work is therefore intrinsically linked with broader justice efforts, whether such efforts are pursued through national judiciaries, international investigative bodies or international judicial cooperation, they share a common objective: to ensure that justice is served for the victims of the worst crimes under international law. To this end, the Members highlighted the obligation to cooperate with the Court, which is necessary for its effectiveness and for the integrity of its proceedings.

The activation of the ICC's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression was welcomed as a historic leap forward in ensuring that the perpetrators of the most serious forms of the illegal use of force can be held to account at the international level.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Background:** The Informal Ministerial Network for the ICC is comprised of over 30 Ministers from all regions of the world and is coordinated by the Foreign Minister of Liechtenstein.

**Contact:** Mr. Sina Alavi, Legal Adviser – Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations, New York (t) +1 212 599 0220 ext. 230 (e) [sa@nyc.llv.li](mailto:sa@nyc.llv.li)

**The following Members of the Informal Ministerial Network (IMN) for the International Criminal Court have endorsed this press release:**

President of the Assembly of States Parties	Mr. O-Gon Kwon
Andorra	H.E. Ms. Maria Ubach Font, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Argentina	H.E. Mr. Jorge Faurie, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Austria	H.E. Ms. Karin Kneissl, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Belgium	H.E. Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Botswana	H.E. Ms. Unity Dow, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Canada	H.E. Ms. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Chile	H.E. Mr. Roberto Ampuero, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Costa Rica	H.E. Ms. Epsy Campbell Barr, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Cyprus	H.E. Mr. Nikos Christodoulides, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Czech Republic	H.E. Mr. Mr. Jan Hamáček , Minister for Foreign Affairs
Denmark	H.E. Mr. Anders Samuelsen, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Estonia	H.E. Mr. Sven Mikser, Minister for Foreign Affairs
European Union	H.E. Ms. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Finland	H.E. Mr. Timo Soini, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Gambia	H.E. Mr. Abubacarr Tambadou, Attorney General and Justice Minister
Iceland	H.E. Mr. Godhlaugur Thor Thordharson, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ireland	H.E. Mr. Simon Coveney, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
Italy	H.E. Mr. Enzo Moavero Milanesi, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Lesotho	H.E. Mr. Lesego Makgothi, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Liechtenstein	H.E. Ms. Aurelia Frick, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Luxembourg	H.E. Mr. Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	H.E. Mr. Nikola Dimitrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mexico	H.E. Mr. Luis Videgaray Caso, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Netherlands	H.E. Mr. Stef Blok, Minister for Foreign Affairs
New Zealand	H.E. Mr. Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Norway	H.E. Ms. Ine Eriksen Søreide, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Peru	H.E. Mr. Nestor Popolizio Bardales, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Senegal	H.E. Mr. Sidiki Kaba, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Slovakia	H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs
Slovenia	H.E. Mr. Miro Cerar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Spain	H.E. Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Sweden	H.E. Ms. Margot Wallström, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Switzerland	H.E. Mr. Ignazio Cassis, Federal Councillor and Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs
Timor-Leste	H.E. Mr. Dionísio Babo Soares, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Trinidad and Tobago	H.E. Mr. Dennis Moses, Minister for Foreign Affairs and CARICOM
Tunisia	H.E. Mr. Khemaies Jhinaoui, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)	Mr. William R. Pace