

27 November 2017

Excellency,

The 16th session of the Assembly of State Parties (ASP) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court will begin next week on 4 December 2017. I am writing to you on behalf of the *Coalition for the International Criminal Court (Coalition)*—a global network of more than 2,500 non-governmental and civil society organizations in 150 countries, working in partnership for enforcement of the Statute, of International humanitarian law, and for a fair, effective, and independent International Criminal Court (ICC).

We appeal to you and your government to express your strong and continuing political commitment to the Rome Statute and ICC in the **General Debate** of the Assembly and in the plenary dedicated to recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute in 2018. Since its adoption in 1998, the Rome Statute has promised the end to impunity and increased access to justice for victims of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. After 123 ratifications, 15 years of Court activity, 15 annual ASP meetings, the Review Conference of the Statute in Kampala in 2010, as well as years of discussions in the ASP's various working groups and other consultative fora, the cumulative body of experience warrants serious stocktaking and renewal of goals and strategies for the **future** of the system of justice established by the Rome Statute, and the larger framework of international justice.

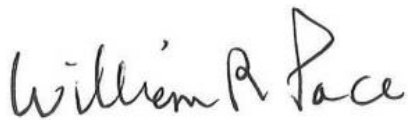
Excellency, the Coalition calls on your government, as well as all other high-level officials representing the regions and major legal systems of the States Parties to the Rome Statute, to use the General Debate to reaffirm, *inter alia*:

- The need to safeguard the **integrity of the Rome Statute**, and its cornerstone principles, including Article 27;
- The commitment to strengthen the ICC's **judicial and prosecutorial independence**;
- The need for **universality of the Rome Statute**, as well as for its **full and effective implementation** into domestic jurisdictions;

- The commitment to **enhanced cooperation**, including through efforts to conclude cooperation agreements with the ICC and to ratify the **Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the ICC** ahead of the Rome Statute's 20th anniversary;
- Governments' **financial commitment** to the ICC and to promoting complementarity and capacity building of national legal systems;
- The **centrality of victims – including their participation and right to reparations** - in the Rome Statute system;
- Recognition of the Rome Statute system's integral role in **conflict prevention and sustainable peacebuilding**; in implementing SDG Goal 16; and in advancing the indispensable role of women in international peace and justice processes.

Excellency, progressive multilateralism is facing enormous challenges. The advancements in international justice in the last 25 years are historic and unprecedented. The Rome Statute and the ICC are monumental achievements that must be protected and strengthened.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William A. Pace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

William Pace
Convenor
Coalition for the International Criminal Court