

## **Coalition for the International Criminal Court Review Team Statement**

### **Plenary Session on the Review Process of the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the ICC Assembly of States Parties**

7 December 2022

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

I am speaking to you today on behalf of the Coalition for the ICC's Review Team, which was established in an effort to coordinate civil society efforts around the complex and overwhelming IER process.

We welcome the organization of this dedicated plenary session on the Review Process, allowing for greater engagement from all stakeholders, including civil society. Civil society, through the Review Team, has actively engaged with the Mechanism throughout 2022, and we welcome the opportunity to do so today.

As the assessment of the IER recommendations draws to a close, and we look towards the implementation of positively-assessed recommendations by the Court and its Assembly, we would like to recall the central objective of the Review process: to enhance the capacity of the ICC and its ability to more effectively serve the communities affected by its work.

Looking ahead to the future of the process, we would like to share the following recommendations:

- **The implementation of positively-assessed recommendations should be ongoing** to ensure progress continues to be made, and the assessment process is not simply a box-ticking exercise, but a genuine step towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Court.
- **Efforts to improve the Court's performance should also be ongoing**, and not simply end with the conclusion of the Mechanism's mandate. This includes ensuring that the progress achieved in this process is not lost, and on the contrary, that the Court, States Parties and other stakeholders continue to build on that progress.
- The Court and States Parties, in collaboration with civil society, should **create opportunities to reflect on the progress achieved** in the Review process thus far, including by assessing whether the key objective of strengthening the Court's delivery of justice has been achieved, and identifying potential gaps that remain.

Further, we welcome the Review Mechanism's continued emphasis on ensuring the Review process is led by the following fundamental principles, and recommend they continue beyond the mandate of the Mechanism:

- *First, **Transparency***, which contributes to a legitimate and credible process, including by the regular and consistent communication about progress and next steps 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.
- Third and finally, ***Respect for the Court's judicial and prosecutorial independence and consciousness of limited resources***.