

**Welcoming Ceremony for Seychelles as a State Party to the International
Criminal Court, 1st November 2010, The Hague
Speech by Miss Vivianne FOCK TAVE, Ambassador of the Republic of
Seychelles**

**Your Honour,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honour for me to represent my country today as Seychelles becomes a full-fledged State Party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

First and foremost, I wish to thank the ICC and all our partners who have worked with us to reach this stage. We are deeply grateful to you.

The creation of the ICC was an important milestone in the struggle to safeguard the rights of victims and vulnerable peoples living in areas of conflict across the world.

It complements the mandates and provisions of the international humanitarian law treaties whose simple aim is to alleviate the sad and often very painful effects of armed conflict.

Unfortunately, the mechanisms to enforce such rules have far too often been lacking.

Since coming into force in 2002, the ICC has sought to redress that.

Honourable Judges and Excellencies,

Seychelles endorses and subscribes to the objectives of the Rome Statute.

This ratification should be seen as further evidence of the commitment of the Government of Seychelles to peace, justice and respect for human rights, and to the values of all the peoples and nations of the world.

We look forward to taking our part in the work of the ICC, and of the Assembly of the States Parties to the Rome Statute.

We believe that all are equal before the law, and that the law should afford equal protection to all of us.

We echo the words of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon at the opening address of the United Nations General Assembly Debate this year: “In our modern era, let us send a clear message: No nation, large or small, can violate the rights of [people] with impunity”.

The Government of Seychelles pledges to honour its obligations under the Rome Statute, and to cooperate with the ICC and with the Office of the Prosecutor.

With your assistance, we stand determined to fulfill these obligations.

We are a small island developing State, with limited resources: hence, it will be a challenge for us to put in place the necessary legislations to comply fully with the ICC requirements.

We are therefore counting on the support of the ICC and the Secretariat of the Assembly of the States Parties, to meet this challenge.

We look forward to working with you.

I thank you for your attention.
