



**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**
**International
Criminal
Court**

Le Bureau du Procureur
The Office of the Prosecutor

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CICC Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Rome Statute

Reflections by the Prosecutor

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Venue: ICC, Conference Room 1 + 2

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me distinct pleasure to address you today at the CICC commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute.

At the outset, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the Coalition for the ICC and its tireless members across the globe, and express my deep gratitude for their work and dedication in contributing to the ever evolving international criminal justice system, in which the Court stands as a crucial pillar.

I also wish to thank Bill Pace for his personal commitment throughout the years and for today's gathering.

I am grateful for this occasion to be standing before all of you as we reflect on *that historic* achievement in 1998 and as we look forward to all the opportunities and potential for change that the future holds.

Since joining the Court in 2004, I have been privileged to witness the vision of generations of people transform from a theoretical construct to reality.

We easily forget that just over 20 years ago, to many, it was inconceivable that a permanent international criminal court would materialise.

As I often remark, the creation of the ICC must surely be one of humanity's proudest moments.

Today, we see a Court that is fast maturing despite formidable challenges, and dispenses justice wherever it has jurisdiction, not least by slowly challenging the notion of atrocities as merely politics by other means.

That archaic paradigm is slowly making that necessary shift towards a more rule-based global order.

We are not there by any means, but the velocity of change has been fixed towards a more just and enlightened path for humanity.

We cannot take for granted what we have accomplished thus far.

From words on paper, the Court now produces concrete results through its work and, ultimately, by providing reparations to the victims of Rome Statute crimes.

As we celebrate what has been achieved, we must consistently aim to set the bar higher.

We, all in our respective roles within the international criminal justice system, shoulder great responsibilities.

Through our collective efforts and resolve, we must ensure that the promise of the Rome Statute and “Never Again” don’t ring hollow, but rather, through the effective and efficient exercise of our functions, and through tangible results, we give breath to the potential of the Statute to make our world *less ruthless*, and more *just*.

Certainly the Court is headed towards new challenges, as our activities intensify, whether in number, complexity or geographical scope.

I am proud to say that my Office, in the past years, continuously prepares for these obstacles.

We have streamlined our strategies, policies and management practices towards this end, learning from past experiences.

Support for the Court remains crucial.

Cooperation efforts need to amplify, in order to secure long-term gains for justice. The judicial machinery cannot be held in abeyance by lack of arrests. The Court, with its growing reach and activities, coupled with ever increasing calls for justice and accountability, needs to be equipped, including with the provision of adequate resources, to implement its mandate as intended by the Rome Statute.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This timely forum provides a platform for constructive dialogue, so as to engage and reflect on how we may further strengthen and promote the Rome Statute system.

The cause of international criminal justice has been implanted in our consciousness and it is a reality; there is no going back in this forward march of humanity.

Thank you again Bill and all the other organisers who have made this event possible, and indeed for all you have done and continue to do.

Thank you for your attention. | OTP