



Cour
Pénale
Internationale

International
Criminal
Court

Le Président
The President



Statement by

Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji
President
International Criminal Court

**United Nations General Assembly
Nelson Mandela Peace Summit**

24 September 2018
New York City, USA

Madame President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. As the President of the International Criminal Court, I am immensely honoured to take part in these reflections, from the point of view of Mandela's legacy to the quest for justice for victims of crimes that shock the conscience of human kind.
2. The Rome Statute – the ICC's founding treaty – was adopted 20 years ago: on the eve of Mandela's 80th birthday. In a speech he gave just two weeks before, he testified to the importance of having a permanent international criminal court.
3. He said: 'We have sought to ensure that the ICC is guaranteed independence and bestowed with adequate powers. Our own continent has suffered enough horrors emanating from the inhumanity of human beings towards human beings. Who knows, many of these might not have occurred, or at least been minimised, had there been an effectively functioning International Criminal Court.'
4. These words ring true today as they did 20 years ago. And they ring true for all continents, in equal measure, beyond Mandela's continent of origin.
5. Justice is intrinsically linked to the pursuit of lasting peace and respect for the rights and freedoms of all people.
6. Now we have in place that ICC that Mandela had wished for. We all must cherish it.
7. I am grateful to the States in all regions, that are standing strong in support of the Court. In so doing, they – you – give actionable affirmation to the global commitment of 'never again' to the kinds of atrocious crimes that the Court was created to punish.

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Madam President,

8. Before I finish, I would like to pay tribute to another global icon of our own times, Kofi Annan, who was laid to rest earlier this month.
9. The ICC joined the world in mourning the loss of a true giant, whose immense contributions to advancing peace and justice are known to all.
10. The ICC will always remain a part of Mr Annan's legacy. As the UN Secretary-General at the time, he gave critical support to the establishment of the Court.
11. Until his death, he remained the foremost advocate of the ICC, which he called a 'giant step forward in the march towards universal human rights and the rule of law'.
12. Now it is for us to continue that march. I assure you that the International Criminal Court will continue to do its part.

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