



Check Against Delivery

Statement of the Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia

H.E. Mr. GOCHA LORDKIPANIDZE

**Commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court**

17 July 2018

The Hague

Mr President, Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

- It's my honour to address such a distinguished gathering today marking second decade of existence of the Rome Statute.
- Fundamental change we hoped the Rome Statute will bring to the international order is about extending reach of the Statute to the global level to achieve international justice for all.
- And here we are - representatives of 123 State parties and the International Criminal Court united in our resolve to once again commit to the enduring values of the Rome Statute and the ICC mission in ending impunity.
- This is also a touching moment for me as I recognize those in the audience I have known since early days of negotiations of the Rome Statute and the work of the Preparatory Commission.
- However, I admit, even we, 20 years ago could not have anticipated all the challenges the ICC will be faced with.
- Yet, given the track-record of this institution during this period we should have every confidence that the powers vested in the International Criminal Court by the Rome Statute are used in the best interest of international justice and peace.
- This needs to be extended to my own country where demand for international justice is long overdue amongst the victims and people and the ICC Prosecutor's Office pursues the first ever investigation in Europe - into the crimes committed during the 2008 war against Georgia.

Mr President,

- International Criminal Court can not be better than the State parties since its effectiveness rests on the solid foundation of cooperation with the latter based on complementarity.
- We do our part of the job –
- In the context of the 2008 war investigation based on the efficient labor distribution we cooperate with the ICC prosecutor's office, Registry, Victims and Trust Fund for victims, the civil society and international NGO's as well as engage our partners and parties to the

Rome Statute to support the Court and related institutions by increasing and strengthening its institutional and budgetary means to effectively perform the mandate.

- Therefore, by the next commemoration of the Rome Statute we have good reasons to believe to have a better world produced in particular by the efforts of better International Criminal Court.