



Speech of the ICCBA President 20th Anniversary of Rome Statute Event – 17 July 2018

Excellencies, Your most distinguished honors,

In my capacity here as President of the International Criminal Court Bar Association, and on behalf of the Executive Council of the Association and members of the Bar, present in nearly all countries of the world, I want to wish you all a very happy 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute.

The ICCBA was established in 2016 and serves as the collective voice for counsel and support staff. The Association was accorded recognition by the Assembly of State Parties of the Rome Statute in its 1st year, with the important mandate to represent Victims and Defense Counsel and Support Staff appearing before the International Criminal Court. Through that recognition, the ASP provided the victims and defense counsel before the ICC a structured institutional framework within which to participate in the realization of the objectives of the Rome Statute.

The 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute is a unique occasion for the International Criminal Court Bar Association to strongly reaffirm our unwavering support for the universal values that inspired the State Parties to establish the Rome Statute. The Rome Statute is a living instrument.

My predecessor, Karim Khan QC, delivered our maiden address to the ASP in New York last year, in which on behalf of the Executive Council of the ICCBA, he reaffirmed the commitment of the ICCBA to the objectives of the Rome Statute.

Excellencies, your most distinguished honors, the election of new principals at the Presidency of the ICC and the Registry, has inspired worldwide hope that at long last, the Rome Statute at 20 is being steered in the right direction. The world is watching, so do we. The ICCBA strongly supports the ongoing reforms that the Court principals have embarked upon. These reforms coming at the threshold of the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute inspires renewed hope in the original objectives of the Rome Statute and the future of the ICC that was established to realize those objectives.

The signing of the Rome Statute twenty years ago today was a milestone in history, at this juncture it is a perfect opportunity to reflect upon the achievements of the international criminal justice system which it embodies as well as prepare for the challenges ahead, in an ever changing world. The world community placed their hopes in the system created by the Rome Statute and every actor in the Court has their role to play. The ICCBA reaffirms its commitment to achieving the objectives of the Statute and being a strong partner with the ICC and the ICC Principals on this journey for a more just world.

On behalf of the ICCBA, Mr. President, and all of you gathered here today in The Hague, I wish you a very successful and fruitful conference.

Thank you very much.