



**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**

**International
Criminal
Court**

Le Président
The President

Judge Piotr Hofmański
President of the International Criminal Court

Remarks for the solemn undertaking of the Registrar

Check against delivery

5 April 2023

OPENING REMARKS

Dear fellow judges,

Madam Vice-President of the Assembly of States Parties,

Mr Prosecutor; Madam Deputy Prosecutor, Mr Deputy Prosecutor,

Madam President of the ICC Bar Association,

Mr Registrar,

Mr Registrar-Elect,

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

I welcome you all to the solemn undertaking of the new Registrar of the International Criminal Court, Mr Osvaldo Zavala Giler.

Mr Zavala Giler, who is of Ecuadorian nationality, was elected to the position of Registrar by the judges of this Court on the 10th of February. His term in office will begin on Monday, the 17th of April 2023, and will run for five years.

Mr Zavala Giler succeeds Mr Peter Lewis, whose term of office as Registrar is coming to an end on the 16th of April.

Pursuant to article 45 of the Rome Statute, before taking up his duties, the new Registrar must make, in open court, a solemn undertaking to exercise his functions impartially and conscientiously. That is the purpose of today's hearing.

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The change of Registrar is a significant moment for our institution.

Under the authority of the Court's President, the ICC Registrar plays a key role in enabling the Court to perform its mandate.

In accordance with article 43 of the Rome Statute, the Registrar leads the non-judicial administration and servicing of the Court, without prejudice to the functions and powers of the Prosecutor.

As such, the Registrar oversees a wide range of critical services for the ICC, including: the protection of victims and witnesses; security and safety; information technology; translation and interpretation, court management; budget preparation and financial services; country offices; and much, much more.

Crucially, the Registrar is also responsible for facilitating the fullest participation of the defence and the victims in the Court's proceedings, including through legal aid. For this and for other reasons, it is essential that the Registrar remains neutral at all times and upholds the Court's independence and impartiality.

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Mr Zavala Giler comes to the post of Registrar with a wealth of highly relevant experience. He has served in progressively senior functions in the ICC's Registry for more than 11 years, gaining first-hand insight into all the different responsibilities – as well as challenges – that the Registrar's job carries. During this time, he has shown great skill and commitment in performing his duties.

I have no doubt that Osvaldo Zavala Giler is a person to whom Peter Lewis can hand the baton with confidence at the end of his mandate.

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On that note, I wish to pay tribute to the fantastic job that Peter Lewis has done as the ICC's Registrar over the last 5 years.

His term was anything but easy. Unprecedented threats were made against the ICC and the Court's personnel; we were confronted with a global pandemic; we went through a demanding Review process to enhance our operations, and we dealt with increasing budget pressures while facing a significant increase in our judicial activity.

Dear Peter, I am truly appreciative of the able stewardship you showed in navigating these stormy waters, enabling the Court to continue discharging its mandate at all times.

At the same time, you showed great commitment to improving the ICC as a workplace for all personnel of the Court. As such, you have truly worked for the good of the institution on the inside as well as on the outside. Thank you once more for your distinguished service.

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CONCLUDING REMARKS

Thank you for your remarks, Mr Zavala Giler.

I appreciate your thoughtful reflections on the tasks ahead of you, and I look forward to working with you once you assume office on the 17th of April this year. I trust my colleagues share that sentiment.

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The solemn undertaking of the Registrar of the International Criminal Court has hereby been concluded in accordance with article 45 of the Rome Statute.

The hearing is hereby adjourned.

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