

Communiqué on the occasion of International Criminal Justice Day

On International Criminal Justice Day, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, México, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, State Parties and Signatories to the Rome Statute from Latin America and the Caribbean, are proud to celebrate the development and achievements of international criminal justice institutions.

Our countries believe it is an appropriate date to acknowledge the landmark steps that the international community is taking to reach the common goal of combating impunity and delivering global criminal justice, and an opportunity for those who support justice around the world to make their voices heard.

While we recognize that International Criminal Justice may be facing new challenges, we are sure that they are not insurmountable, and that with the support and commitment of all Member States of the United Nations, civil society and the respective institutions, we will continue advancing towards a world where accountability rules.

Today also marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the ICC. On this special date, we wish to recognize the paramount contribution of the International Criminal Court to the fight against impunity and reiterate our support to all the efforts made by the Court in this regard. We also wish to recall that the Court, as an independent judicial institution, applies the Rome Statute as it carries out its mandate in an impartial and unbiased manner.

In order to preserve the integrity of the Rome Statute, achieve universality, and support the fight against impunity and for justice for the victims of international atrocities, our countries wish to reiterate our invitation to States that are not yet parties to ratify or accede to it.

Our group would also like to recall the principle of complementarity, which affirms that States have the primary responsibility to exercise jurisdiction and to ensure an effective prevention and prosecution of crimes under the Rome Statute.

It is imperative to ensure that all States cooperate with the International Criminal Court according to their international obligations. Today, we call upon States to continue to do so and to strengthen their efforts in this regard.

Lastly, we reiterate our indissoluble commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Rome Statute, in order to achieve one day our shared goal of lasting peace and justice.

New York, 17 July, 2014