

Ceremony for the Solemn Undertaking

**International Criminal Court
13 July 2015**

**Statement by the President of the Assembly of States Parties
Mr. Sidiki KABA**

Madame President of the Court,
Honourable Judges,
Mr Deputy Prosecutor,
Mr Registrar,
Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Assembly, I have the great honour of swearing in the new judge who was elected at the Assembly's resumed thirteenth session held on 24 and 25 June 2015.

On this solemn occasion, I wish to reiterate that the ambition of the 123 States which currently make up the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court is to put an end to impunity and to combat the most serious crimes that affect the international community.

Madame President,

Since 11 March 2015 the Court has entered a new phase with the arrival of six new judges and a new Presidency which, for the first time, consists of three distinguished female judges.

However, the Court still lacked its eighteenth judge to complete the bench provided for by the Statute.

Therefore, at its resumed thirteenth session held on 24 and 25 June 2015 the Assembly elected:

Mr Raul Pangalangan (Philippines)

as judge of the International Criminal Court in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute and of resolution ICC-ASP/3/Res.6.

Mr Pangalangan meets the highest standards in the area of international criminal justice and possesses the qualifications required in his State for appointment to the highest judicial office.

Mr Pangalangan,

In a few moments you will take the oath of office, a solemn and essential formality which will afford you the privilege of joining the small and prestigious group of eminent judges who have the formidable honour and difficult responsibility of putting into practice the spirit and the letter of the Rome Statute: to deliver justice on behalf of the peoples of the world and to ensure that the most serious crimes affecting the international community as a whole do not go unpunished. I have no doubt that you will live up to the expectations of the States Parties which have elected you on the basis of your integrity and competence. You thus have an historic opportunity to play a part in the establishment of sound case law, the cornerstone of justice that is recognised and accepted.

On behalf of the Assembly of States Parties, I welcome you to the Court.

Madame President,

The challenges facing the Court remain but I wish to emphasise in particular the importance of cooperation among the States Parties. This must be tangible and reiterated everywhere and at all times, both in international

fora and also in the day-to-day actions that may be taken to assist the Court in fulfilling its mandate.

It is undeniable that without cooperation it would be difficult to expect effective criminal justice. Without cooperation with the Court, international society will remain exposed to spirals of violence and will increasingly be distracted from its priorities.

Nevertheless, I am firmly convinced that the States Parties are fully aware of their collective and individual responsibility to ensure that the system of the Rome Statute as a whole runs smoothly.

I thank you Madame President.

* * *