

WELCOMING CEREMONY: SEYCHELLES

Statement, H.E. Mr. Jorge Lomónaco (Mexico) Vice - President of the Assembly of States Parties

Mr. President,

Mr. Prosecutor,

Madame Registrar,

Excellencies,

Ambassador Ms. Vivianne Fock-Tave,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On 12 August the Indian Ocean archipelago of the Seychelles took the decision to join other 111 States in their efforts to put an end to impunity for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes by ratifying the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court, the Rome Statute.

Some may think that the crimes falling under the jurisdiction of the Court are not necessarily central to the foreign policy priorities of some States. Nonetheless, in this global era, the commission of crimes under the jurisdiction of the Court has impact over the international community as a whole and no one country can remain indifferent to the need of bringing justice to the victims and affected communities.

States often deliver statements expressing their commitment to justice and the rule of law and condemning atrocities in different regions of the world. The Seychelles has gone well beyond words. In ratifying the Statute and participating

in the recent Review Conference in Kampala, it has demonstrated commitment to the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern, and determination to achieve global justice and peace. I am confident that these huge steps taken by the Seychelles will in time be accompanied by the implementing legislation and, when requested, concrete cooperation with the Court, including in the execution of arrest warrants.

The Rome Statute system can only attain its full potential with universality. The Seychelles' decision constitutes a source of inspiration for those States who have yet to ratify it. This year, four new countries have joined the Statute. This is twice the number of ratifications of last year and I sincerely hope this is only half the number of the ratifications for next year. I encourage the Seychelles to become not only an active State Party but also to join the drive towards universality, particularly in the Indian Ocean basin.

Today we are gathered, as we have done in the past, to celebrate the commitment of yet one more State party to global justice. On behalf of the Assembly of States Parties, I would like to offer the Seychelles a warm welcome as the 112th member of our growing family.

The “age of accountability” referred to by the United Nations Secretary-General calls upon us all to do our part in the fight against impunity. We are thus delighted to have a new partner from the Indian Ocean in this historic endeavor.
