

Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Rome Statute
15-16 February 2018

Written Statement by Ambassador Muhamed Sacirbey:

Thank you for your invitation and the kind words of recognition. The story of the Rome Statute and establishment of the ICC is one of individuals as well as institutions. Your role was defining then as it has been now for two decades. We have seen more success than disappointment than we may have anticipated on the birth of the ICC. You and the Coalition deserve much credit.

In 1998 I was privileged to lead a team of experts and global citizens as part of the delegation of Bosnia & Herzegovina to Rome. They deserve much credit in the outsized role that BiH played in helping shape the negotiations and eventual Statute. The citizens of BiH are best witness as to why a permanent international court was needed to deliver justice but also the promise of a better future.

-Ambassador Muhamed Sacirbey

Former Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations
Former Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Written Statement by Professor Roy S Lee:

The activation of the crimes of aggression not just empowers the ICC Statute. It goes beyond that. The ratifications of 33 countries have also created a de jure non-aggression pact amongst those countries. Their commitments to punish crimes of aggression means also their own legal obligation not to engage in any acts of aggression. This is significant for these 33 countries but also their neighbors. Such a pattern is emerging in Latin America and other sub-regions. All you have to do is to look at the list and circle the neighbors.

-Professor Roy S Lee

Former Executive Secretary for the United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court