

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

**Written Statement by Professor Lucius Caflisch:**

I have excellent recollections and fond memories of the negotiations regarding the ICC. On the side of many governments there was, for once, a genuine wish to succeed, despite attempts to make the operation derail. On the side of the coalition, there was, not only a will to fight relentlessly against impunity, but also the realization that sometimes better is the enemy of good and that there is nothing perfect in this world. The result was and is that today those directly or indirectly responsible for grave war crimes, acts of genocide and crimes against humanity will no longer be left in peace; and that individuals and governments will have to think twice before planning and committing such acts and crimes. I am pleased that my country took an active part in this momentous development; I am also grateful for the excellent cooperation between NGOs and a large number of States that made this development possible.

We must continue to strengthen and improve what was achieved in Rome. Our common humanitarian action must continue in other fields, such as the status of nuclear weapons. Today the chances of success may seem to be minimal, but remember that the same was true twenty or even thirty years ago, when the chances for introducing sanctions for international crimes were or seemed non-existent.

-Professor Lucius Caflisch

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