

Statement of the Convenor of the Coalition for the ICC, Mr. William Pace at:

**Completing the Legacy of Nuremberg:
Activating the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over the crime of aggression in 2017**

Wednesday, 20 September 2017
United Nations Headquarters

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**Minister Frick, Minister Sanz, High Commissioner Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein,
Excellencies, Colleagues,**

I am honored to speak on behalf of the ***Coalition for the International Criminal Court***, a network of over 2,500 member organizations of global civil society committed to the Rome Statute and the ICC.

The crime of aggression was one of the four crimes listed in the Rome Statute when the treaty was adopted in 1998, though the completing of the definition and provisions of jurisdiction were postponed for further negotiation. The Review Conference in 2010 took a historic step by adopting *by consensus* the definition of the crime of aggression and provisions including 30 ratifications and seven years delay for the exercise of jurisdiction by the Court.

Now, the international community and the ASP are at the final step of completion of this truly historic process – one whose scale of achievement and uniqueness grow every year.

We understand that the ASP governments have agreed to the activation of the jurisdiction this year, and 2018, the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute, is an eminently appropriate year. Thus, we hope the remaining differences in the resolution of activation can be resolved by this December's 16th Session of the Assembly of States Parties.

Ministers, it is not simply a political matter – for the overwhelming view of the international community is that acts of aggression have occurred since the entry into force of the Rome Statute, including by some of the most powerful governments in the world and permanent members of the UN Security Council.

With this completion, implementation and universalization must proceed. Thus as with the three International Humanitarian Law crimes, our global international justice network believes that full implementation of the Rome Statute system – including complementarity and full cooperation – will be a major element of the sacred goal of the Rome Statute and the UN Charter – to ***prevent*** these worst crimes in international law- and when prevention cannot be achieved, the violations of peace are addressed by justice and the rule of law.

Thank you.



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

Invitation

On the eve of International Peace Day

Completing the Legacy of Nuremberg: Activating the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over the crime of aggression in 2017

**Wednesday, 20 September 2017, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 7**

Moderator:

Ms. Leila Sadat, Director of the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute

Panelists:

H.E. Mr. Manuel González Sanz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica

H.E. Ms. Aurelia Frick, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein

H.R.H. Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr. Benjamin Ferencz, Former Nuremberg War Crimes Prosecutor

Background:

More than 70 years after Justice Robert H. Jackson, Chief Prosecutor of the International Military Tribunal (IMT) in Nuremberg decried the crime of aggression as the “supreme international crime” -- the international community has the opportunity to fulfill the promise of Nuremberg by criminalizing aggressive war-making at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

At the ICC Review Conference in 2010 in Kampala, Uganda, ICC States Parties adopted amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression. Once activated, these amendments will allow the ICC to prosecute individuals in leadership positions, who are responsible for the most serious forms of the illegal use of force against other ICC States Parties. The Kampala agreement foresaw the ratification of 30 States as well as a one-time decision of States Parties in order to enable the Court to exercise jurisdiction over the crime of aggression. While 34 States have already ratified the amendments, the decision by ICC States Parties to activate the Court’s jurisdiction of the crime of aggression is scheduled for December 2017

An affirmative activation decision at the² upcoming session of the Assembly of States Parties will not only remedy the current lack of individual criminal liability for committing the crime of aggression, it will also complete the Rome Statute as originally drafted, help to deter aggressive war-making and enforce a key provision of the Charter of the United Nations: the prohibition of the illegal use of force.

The meeting is open to all delegations without prior registration. After the panel discussion, the floor will be opened for questions and comments. The organizers would welcome in particular statements addressing the current status of the domestic ratification process as well as statements on the activation decision at the Assembly of States Parties in New York in December of this year.

After the panel discussion, the floor will be opened for interventions by Member States and civil society representatives. To reserve a place on the informal speaking list as well as for any further questions, please contact: Mr. Sina Alavi (+1 212 599 0220 ext. 230 | sa@nyc.llv.li).

For more information please visit: www.crimeofaggression.info