

To: **Ministers of the ICC Network**
From: **William Pace, Convenor of the Coalition of the ICC**
Re: **Meeting on September 22, 2016**

Excellencies,

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) again expresses our deep appreciation for your participation in the **Informal Ministerial Network** for the Rome Statute and the ICC (IMN). Unwavering political support for the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court remains, we believe, a crucial measure of whether justice and the rule of law in international affairs will prevail over the age-old forces of war, hatred and impunity.

This historic treaty and the ICC emerged in the first months of this century amidst very powerful political opposition. The State Parties and the ICC successfully confronted and actually turned around the Bush Administration's efforts to kill the Court, and we are confident we will succeed in overcoming the continuing political threats. And we again congratulate you and especially Foreign Minister Frick for convening this important informal ministerial grouping.

The Coalition strongly supports the important *Action Plan-Towards Universality of the Rome Statute* adopted by the IMN last year. The special ceremony for the deposit of El Salvador's instruments of ratification was one of the most positive and inspiring meetings at the UN this year. One hundred and twenty-four ratifications for such a major treaty remains a remarkable achievement; still the CICC members are dedicated to striving for universality.

The Coalition congratulates the Assembly, the Court and the host government for the completion of the permanent premises. The **IMN statement** on the occasion of the official opening on April 19, 2016 was one of most important messages.

Excellencies, the Coalition would like to encourage your government and the IMN to continue to support the **implementation of the Kampala amendments** and we welcome the statement being approved at the upcoming meeting of September 22, 2016 and the special meeting at the UN including the deposit of ratifications by Chile and The Netherlands.

The Coalition has strongly supported the efforts of ICC State Parties to promote the code of conduct and declarations calling for all governments to **oppose the use of the veto** to block Security Council action aimed at preventing or ending genocide, war-crimes and crimes against humanity. The CICC encourages all UN Member States and especially all ICC State Parties to endorse the code of conduct and we look forward to the upcoming special meeting at the UN.

The 71st UN General Assembly will appoint the **next UN Secretary-General** in coming weeks. It is vital the new Secretary-General is a strong supporter of the Rome Statute and the ICC.

The Coalition and its members will continue to press for investigation and prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide wherever these worst crimes in international law occur. We will strongly endorse complementarity by national legal systems and by regional judicial systems as they develop and are consistent with the Rome Statute.

We hope the IMN network will continue to grow, to take on more tasks and challenges within its structure, and to continue to provide discrete, but indispensable high-level political support for this landmark implementation of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Lastly, the **20th anniversary of the Rome Statute** will occur in **2018**. The Coalition requests that the IMN join the CICC in using this anniversary to regenerate, to educate, to advance national and global support for this major historic treaty – one of the great tools for peace for the 21st century

With deep respect,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William R. Pace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'P'.

William R. Pace
Convenor
Coalition for the International Criminal Court