



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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ANNUAL BREAKFAST: INFORMAL MINISTERIAL NETWORK FOR THE ICC

**REMARKS BY H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER**

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Dear colleagues,

It is great to see you all here again, in such significant numbers. We host this meeting annually because it is important to regularly elevate discussions on the ICC to the political -level. A very special welcome again to the ICC's Chief Prosecutor, Mr. Karim Khan. We are at such a critical juncture in the international justice project. And we are keen to listen to the developments you have to share and to hear directly from you about how we can further support your mandate.

The three major conflicts in the world today, the situations in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan, are all active investigations by the ICC. In all three investigations, the very highest present or former leadership has had ICC arrest warrants issued against them or pending. The ICC is in the business of holding the most powerful accountable for the worst crimes. This means it inherently has risks of political attacks against it. And, there has never been a more important moment to stand up in support of the ICC to mitigate that risk than now.

Indeed, support from ICC States is crucially important at a time when the Court finds itself under direct attack. It has been subject to massive cyberattacks which were highly disruptive and costly both financially as well as in terms of efficiency of its work. More dramatically still, senior officials of the Court have been subject to unprecedented retaliatory measures from the Russian Federation – simply for the doing the job that we have asked them to do under the Rome Statute. The Court is also under the threat of unprecedented sanctions from factions in the US government. This must be a matter of serious concern and urgent attention for us – as a frontal assault on the principle of judicial and prosecutorial independence, a foundational principle for an effective rule of law. Our

joint and unequivocal support for the Court in the face of such attacks and action to prevent sanctions are key.

Equally important is the realization that we must equip the ICC with the resources it requires to carry out its tasks in accordance with its mandate under the Rome Statute. Our statements of support for the Court are only credible if backed up by concrete action, most importantly, while not exclusively, with respect to the Court's regular budget, which is the only way to ensure both effectiveness as well as prosecutorial and judicial independence.

Dear colleagues,

We must do our utmost to prove wrong what some have called our current era: the age of impunity. There is no better way to do so than by giving the ICC the political, diplomatic and financial support it needs. We must rally around the ICC's global mandate and avoid perceptions of double standards. Challenges in my own region, Europe, are no more and no less important than those elsewhere. We must therefore empower the ICC and international law more broadly to meet the moment. Indeed, if we act even handedly and consistently, the rule of law will come out stronger at the other end.

It is equally important to work towards universality of the Rome Statute including the ratification of its amendments, in particular the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression. There is no bigger sign of the ICC's continued success than new States joining the Rome Statute system. Two States have joined in the last year alone: Armenia and Ukraine. In this regard, we look forward to Ukraine soon officially becoming the 125th ICC State Party, a step of utmost importance – for the Court and for accountability efforts in Ukraine. Moreover, because the situation in Ukraine was a wakeup call for the imperative to deter aggression everywhere in order to protect international peace and security, we must urgently review the limitations on the ICC's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression. We are working with like-minded States on how best to address this accountability gap in the Rome Statute. And we hope we can count on all of you to help us realize the harmonization of the Rome Statute's jurisdiction over all four of its core crimes at the review of the crime of aggression amendments next year.

Thank you.

Now, I have the pleasure to turn the floor

over to Prosecutor Khan

– thank you for joining us!