



Coalition for the International Criminal Court

**Ceremony for the solemn undertaking of the Prosecutor of the
International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda**

**Statement of William Pace, Convener
Coalition for the International Criminal Court**

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Global Civil Society supporting international justice and the ICC celebrates this day and ceremony.

The Rome Statute represents one of the greatest advances of international law – an historic achievement that could not be agreed to by governments today. A strong, progressive, new system of national and international criminal justice with a powerful, independent new international organization and Court at its center.

Indeed, Fatou, the challenges facing you and the ICC in its second decade are as great or greater than those of the last decade.

One of those challenges is to restore the strong and high-level political support of governments, especially for the independence of the Court and Prosecutor.

The journey from Nuremburg to “Never Again” is one very long and very difficult. But the swearing in today of Fatou Bensouda from The Gambia as Prosecutor of the ICC represents a major step in this historic quest.