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**Jokowi: Act on Promises to Join ICC***Global coalition calls on Indonesia to fight against impunity*

**Bangkok/Jakarta**—Indonesian President Joko Widodo should live up to his pledges on accountability and human rights and move to sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), said the Coalition for the ICC today.

In a letter dated 3 December to the recently inaugurated president—known as ‘Jokowi’ in Indonesia—the Coalition raised promises by previous administrations and by Jokowi himself to emphasize that signing and ratifying the Rome Statute must be an immediate priority.

“Indonesia has stalled long enough,” **said Amielle Del Rosario, the Coalition’s Asia-Pacific coordinator**. “It has been making promises on ratification for a decade but still has not taken the decisive step forward. With a new and progressive president now in office, it is high time to finally do so.”

Ratification has been included in the two last National Human Rights Action Plans (2004-2009 and 2011-2014). In 2012, Indonesia accepted numerous recommendations during its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) that it sign and ratify not only the Rome Statute, but also the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the ICC (APIC). As recently as 2013, Indonesian officials announced that they were poised to ratify the treaty.

Despite all of these promises, however, Indonesia remains an outsider to the ICC system, partly because of basic misconceptions about the Court. In particular, there are mistaken fears that ratification would allow foreign meddling in Indonesian affairs.

“The court is centered on the notion of complementarity—the ICC will not and cannot be involved in cases that Indonesian courts are willing and able to take up,” **said Del Rosario**. “And even in the extraordinary circumstance that Indonesian courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute alleged crimes, there are checks on the prosecutor’s power to take up these cases.”

The election of Jokowi, whose campaign emphasized accountability for human rights abuses, is a welcome step forward.

“Ratification of the Rome Statute in the near future presents Jokowi with a perfect opportunity to live up to his promises,” **said Bhatara Ibnu Reza, expert research for Imparsial and spokesperson for the Indonesian Coalition for the ICC**. “It would be a momentous decision, setting him apart from previous administrations beholden to the perpetrators of abuses and demonstrating a clear commitment to protecting the people he represents from the worst crimes.”

Jokowi must brush aside the tired excuses of his predecessors and embrace

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Indonesia's role as a prominent middle power. In the past, Indonesia has taken its cue from other large countries such as the United States and China, which had also previously been unenthusiastic about international justice, but are now warming to the Court.

Timor-Leste, Cambodia and the Philippines have already joined the court, while Malaysia is close and Laos and Vietnam are seriously considering ICC membership. If Indonesia joins now, other states will follow and it will be recognized for its vision and leadership.

Rather than delay and refuse to assume leadership, Indonesia should ratify, thereby becoming the world's largest state to do so.

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**BACKGROUND:** The ICC is the world's first permanent international court to have jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Central to the Court's mandate is the principle of complementarity, which holds that the Court will only intervene if national legal systems are unable or unwilling to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

There are currently nine active investigations before the Court: the Central African Republic I & II; the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Darfur, Sudan; Kenya; Libya; Uganda; Côte d'Ivoire and Mali. The ICC has publicly issued 31 arrest warrants and nine summonses to appear. Two trials are ongoing. The Office of the Prosecutor has made public that it is examining nine situations on four continents, including Afghanistan, Colombia; the registered vessels of the Comoros, Greece and Cambodia; Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, Iraq (examination re-opened in 2014), Nigeria and Ukraine. The Office of the Prosecutor has concluded preliminary examinations relating to Iraq, Venezuela, Palestine and the Republic of Korea, declining in each case to open an investigation.

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court is a global network of civil society organizations in over 150 countries working in partnership to strengthen international cooperation with the ICC; ensure that the Court is fair, effective and independent; make justice both visible and universal; and advance stronger national laws that deliver justice to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

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Experts from human rights organizations members of the Coalition are available for background information and comment. Contact: [communications@coalitionfortheicc.org](mailto:communications@coalitionfortheicc.org)