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**Global Coalition Calls on Nepal to Accede to the ICC Rome Statute***Justice and accountability must be at the fore as Nepal negotiates new constitution*

**New York/Bangkok**—Nepal must accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and establish the values of justice and accountability as foundations for the post-conflict constitution currently being negotiated, the Coalition for the ICC said today.

“After a decade of violence and years of efforts to build peace and political stability, Nepal is now at a defining moment of its history as it writes a new constitution,” said Amielle Del Rosario, Asia-Pacific coordinator for the Coalition. “Parliamentarians must seize this opportunity to ensure that the Nepal of the future guarantees that its citizens are protected from the worst crimes.”

In a letter addressed to Nepalese Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, the Coalition recognized Nepal’s steps towards establishing a peaceful and just post-conflict society where citizens are protected from atrocities and those responsible are held accountable. The interim constitution, the 12-point agreement between political parties, and the Comprehensive Peace Accord are all important advances due to their references to human rights and accountability. However, concrete steps towards ensuring accountability—namely accession to the Rome Statute—have not yet been taken, despite repeated commitments by politicians and relentless calls from civil society.

In 2006, the Nepalese parliament unanimously issued a “commitment resolution” calling for accession to the Rome Statute, and since then several administrations have stated that Nepal was considering accession. Accession was also included in the 2011 Action Plan on Implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Recommendations, but Nepal today is no closer to taking this momentous step forward than it was nearly a decade ago.

Given Nepal’s recent history of violence, its people have a particularly strong understanding of the importance of accountability for and the prevention of mass atrocities. The Coalition and its local partners have been actively monitoring developments in the country and pushing politicians to make Nepal a part of the Rome Statute system.

“Nepal’s experience demonstrates the value of the international system established by the Rome Statute to deter and punish the worst crimes,” said Subodh Raj Pyakurel, coordinator of the Nepal National Coalition for the ICC and Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC) Chairperson. “Justice and accountability must be at the heart of the system that emerges from constitutional negotiations.”

In November 2014 in Kathmandu, the Maldives—an ICC state party—passed the chairmanship of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to Nepal. By joining the ICC, Nepal can show its leadership by improving South Asian representation at the Court. Nepal’s accession would not only be a clear demonstration of regional leadership, but also an important demonstration to the international community of the nation’s break from a past marred by impunity for violence.

Furthermore, accession would give Nepal a stake in the future of a large and growing system of international criminal justice already endorsed by 123 states worldwide.

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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 OTP has made public that it is examining nine situations on four continents, including Afghanistan, Colombia, Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, Iraq (examination re-opened in 2014), Nigeria, Palestine 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.

[www.coalitionfortheicc.org](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org)

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