

The Hague / New York, 20 February 2015

H.E. Mr. Petro Poroshenko
President of Ukraine

Re: Ukraine's Ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

Your Excellency,

We have the honor of once again writing to you on behalf of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), a global network of more than 2,500 non-governmental and civil society organizations in 150 countries, advocating for a fair, effective, and independent Court as well as increased access to justice for victims of crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes.

On the 1-year anniversary of the Euromaidan events, as part of its Campaign for Global Justice for the month of March 2015, the Coalition is urging Ukraine to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) without delay.

Ukraine has recognized the contribution of the international justice system to addressing impunity, not least with the formal declaration on 17 April 2014 accepting the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over alleged crimes committed between 21 November 2013 and 22 February 2014.

However, justice must not take place in a vacuum. For a true end to impunity, recourse to justice must be readily and permanently available. And perpetrators must know that they will be held accountable for the crimes they commit, whenever and wherever they take place.

Full membership in the International Criminal Court can provide this.

Your Excellency, the escalation of violence in Eastern Ukraine has brought into stark reality the pressing need to ensure justice in order to achieve peace.

Putting accountability at the forefront of your agenda to address any human rights violations committed during the conflict will send a strong message: perpetrators of international crimes will be brought to justice and the suffering of victims will not be ignored.

We are fully aware that the Constitutional Court's ruling of 2001 remains a hurdle for ratification. We therefore welcome the calls to consider ways to overcome this obstacle – such as draft proposals to amend the constitution proposed by members of the Verkhovna Rada in 2014 and in 2015. We urge you to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to enable ratification without delay.

Your Excellency, 123 states have recognized that membership in the International Criminal Court is the cornerstone of efforts to end impunity. In joining the ICC, Ukraine too can help ensure justice for victims the world over, help deter future crimes, and contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflict.

We hope to see you among the ICC membership in the near future.

Sincerely,



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CC:

H.E. Mr. Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Pavlo Klimkin, Minister of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Pavlo Petrenko, Minister of Justice

H.E. Mr. Yuriy A. Sergeyev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Olexander Horin, Ambassador of Ukraine to The Netherlands

H.E. Mr. Kostiantyn Yelisieiev, Head of the Mission of Ukraine to the EU

H.E. Mr. Yurii Klymenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva

H.E. Mr. Mykola Tochytskyi, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the Council of Europe

H.E. Mr. Ihor Prokopchuk, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the international organizations in Vienna

H.E. Mr. Volodymyr B. Groysman, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada

H.E. Mr. Yurii Baulin, Chairman of the Constitutional Court