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Coalition Welcomes Jelena Pia-Comella as Program Director

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Jelena Pia-Comella as Program Director.

Ms. Pia-Comella has over 14 years of experience in international relations and a deep knowledge of the United Nations (UN) system. Previously, Ms. Pia-Comella served as Director of Programs at the World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP) since July 2008.

During her tenure with WFM-IGP, Ms. Pia-Comella worked closely with the Coalition and other partner institutions on a range of issues. In addition to her indispensable diplomatic and UN experience, she brings significant management, finance, and development knowledge to her new position with the Coalition.

Ms. Pia-Comella succeeds Ms. Tanya Karanasios, who previously served as Program Director of the Coalition. "I am looking forward to continuing my work with the Coalition in this new position, and I am honored to follow Tanya's excellent leadership as Program Director over the last seven years," Ms. Pia-Comella said. "This is an incredibly exciting and crucial time for the International Criminal Court and Rome Statute system, and the network of institutions and individuals working to advance the cause of international justice will be more important than ever," she added.

Ms. Pia-Comella began her career in 1996 as a diplomat representing the country of Andorra to the UN, the United States and Canada. She participated in the Rome Conference that adopted the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). In 2002, she was appointed Deputy Permanent Representative of Andorra to the UN to coordinate and oversee Andorra's overall participation at the UN as well as to maintain and foster Andorra's relationships with other countries, especially in the areas of human rights, UN reform, humanitarian and development cooperation, and international law. In addition, she served as Chargé d'affaires a.i./Chief of Mission to the United States and Canada from 2001 to 2007.

Upon leaving the Andorran diplomatic service in 2007, Ms. Pia-Comella joined the Center for Women's Global Leadership and Women's Environment and Development Organization as a consultant to coordinate the Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign (GEAR), a coalition of over 300 nongovernmental organizations for the purpose of strengthening gender equality at the United Nations. The new UN Women agency is an important result of this effort, and Ms. Pia-Comella continued to work on this initiative during her time at WFM-IGP.

Ms. Pia-Comella holds a Masters degree in International Political Economy and Development from Fordham University in New York and a Bachelors degree in Economics from Université de Fribourg – Universität Freiburg in Fribourg, Switzerland. She is fluent in Catalan, English, French, and Spanish.

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court includes more than 2,500 civil society organizations in 150 countries working in partnership to strengthen international cooperation with the ICC; ensure that the ICC 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. For more information, visit: www.coalitionfortheicc.org