



Coalition for the International Criminal Court

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Global NGO Coalition Welcomes Moldova as the 114th ICC State Party**

*CICC says Moldovan ratification demonstrates Commitment to International Justice and the Rule of Law*

**(New York, NY)**– On 12 October 2010, the Republic of Moldova deposited its instrument of ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) at UN Headquarters, becoming the 114th State Party to the ICC Treaty. Moldova’s ratification - the third in the Eastern European region - demonstrates its commitment to international justice and the rule of law and is an important step toward full European participation in the Rome Statute system, the Coalition said today.

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) — a civil society network of 2,500 organizations in 150 countries advocating for a fair, effective and independent ICC and improved access to justice for victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity — commends Moldova for its decision to join 113 other nations around the world and spread support for the ICC in Eastern Europe, notably underrepresented at the ICC compared to the rest of Europe.

This historic step follows the adoption of the ICC ratification bill by the Moldovan parliament on 9 September 2010. Moldova's ratification comes after years of work by CICC NGO members and in particular by the Moldovan Coalition for the International Criminal Court who has engaged national authorities, members of the parliament, the media, students, civil society and the general public to promote ratification of the Rome Statute and ensure the ICC would remain on the national agenda.

"Today's ratification is another step toward universal acceptance of the Rome Statute and affirms Moldova's commitment to preventing and putting an end to impunity for serious international crimes," said CICC Europe Coordinator Luisa Mascia. "The Coalition commends the work of the Moldovan Coalition for the ICC and of all stakeholders, in particular of the European Union, who have been actively promoting the ratification of the Rome Statute and raising awareness on the ICC in the country," Mascia added.

The Coalition is now looking forward to Moldova's next steps to fulfill its obligations under the Rome Statute, including full implementation of the Statute in national law, cooperation with and support for the Court, and accession to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC).

The CICC hopes that Moldova's action will inspire other Eastern European neighbors to ratify the Rome Statute. 12 European countries have yet to ratify the treaty (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, the Holy See, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Kingdom of Monaco, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).

## **BACKGROUND**

*114 countries have joined the ICC, which is the world's first permanent international court to prosecute 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 crimes contained in the Statute. To date, the ICC has opened investigations in five situations: the Central African Republic; Darfur, Sudan; Uganda; Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya and it has publicly issued twelve arrest warrants and three summonses to appear. The ICC Office of the Prosecutor has made public that it is examining at least eight situations on four continents, including Afghanistan, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Guinea and Palestine.*

*The Coalition for the International Criminal Court is a global network of civil society organizations in 150 countries advocating for a fair, effective and independent ICC and improved access to justice for victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. For additional information and related statements you may refer to the [Coalition's website](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org) at [www.coalitionfortheicc.org](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org)*

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