

23 June 2014

Dear Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court regarding the **Working Group on Amendments (WGA) meeting on Tuesday 24 June 2014 in New York.**

The Working Group on Amendments will consider a number of amendment proposals to the Rome Statute. Among them is the proposal to amend article 27 of the Rome Statute to exempt heads of state or other high government officials from criminal responsibility while they are in office. This amendment proposal fundamentally undermines the integrity of the Rome Statute. One of the paramount achievements of the ICC's founders and of the Rome Statute treaty was to enshrine the fundamental principle that accountability for the worst crimes under international law applies to all persons. The founding governments of the Rome Statute were also adamant in their conviction that the Rome Statute could not allow for reservations and that there could be no immunity for any individual, in any circumstances, regardless of position or office.

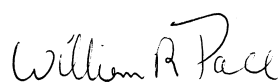
In considering the Article 27 amendment proposal, the Assembly of States Parties is confronted with one of its most serious political challenges to date. It is of pivotal importance that all states parties attend and give their most serious attention to the WGA meeting tomorrow and in the coming months leading up to the 13th Assembly of States Parties session in December which could prove to be tremendously important for the future integrity of the Rome Statute system.

While it is important that the legitimate concerns of AU resolutions and the Kenya situation are addressed, the Rome Statute system and any concerns must also be addressed by considering the views and interests of all 122 states parties and concessions must not be made which would impact of the global fight against impunity as embodied by the ICC.

Excellency, the Coalition for the ICC and its 2500 global NGO members calls upon States Parties to fervently defend the integrity of the Rome Statute and urges you to take the floor in this regard during the WGA meeting tomorrow and in future months.

We thank you for your important work and crucial ongoing support and for the future integrity of the ICC.

Sincerely,



William R. Pace