

## **African Coalitions' Joint Press Release on Kenya's Attempt to Withdraw from the Rome Statute**

Africa has been a key pillar of the adoption of the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court, demonstrating its commitment to fight against impunity on the African continent.

The Court, which is still a very young institution, has been strongly criticised by African heads of state at the Addis-Ababa summit in May 2013, where there was an adoption of a resolution encouraging African Union members to no longer cooperate with the International Criminal Court. The reason cited for adopting this resolution was the bias of the Court to only prosecute Africans.

African members of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court denounce the attitude of the African heads of state, as this very attitude facilitates future international crimes committed as well as impunity in Africa.

This resolution of non-cooperation probably influenced the Kenyan parliamentary bill to withdraw Kenya from the Rome Statute. African members of the Coalition strongly condemn this initiative.

However, they welcome the Kenyan vice-president's cooperation with the ICC who, despite the Parliament's decision, appeared before the Court for a hearing regarding alleged crimes for which he would be responsible.

African members of the Coalition strongly urge Kenyan leaders to reverse their decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute.

Finally, African members of the Coalition praised the ICC and the prosecutor's determination and commitment to prosecute and punish crimes under its jurisdiction.

Done in Bujumbura on 09/13/2013

**Côte d'Ivoire Coalition for the ICC**, represented by BAMBAOULE DIABATE  
**Burundian Coalition for the ICC**, represented by Me CYRIAQUE NDAYISENGA.  
**Chadian Coalition for the ICC**, represented by DOUMNGUINAM GOSNGAR