

## **Ms. Tiina Intelmann**

**President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court**

***“QUO VADIS ICC: Assessing the International Criminal Court's first ten years and planning for the future”***

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Ambassador Tiina Intelmann is the Estonian Ambassador-at-large for the International Criminal Court. In December 2011, she was elected to a three-year term as President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The International Criminal Court took up work in 2002 upon the entry into force of its founding treaty, the Rome Statute. It is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of the worst crimes of international concern, namely genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. It deals with crimes committed on the territory of States Parties or by nationals of States Parties if the State with primary jurisdiction is unwilling or unable to do so itself. Additionally, the Security Council may refer situations to the Court.

The Assembly of States Parties comprises the 120 States Parties to the Rome Statute. Besides exercising a supervisory role over the administrative aspects of the Court and approving its annual budget, the Assembly also deals with a number of important substantive issues such as non-cooperation with the Court and the campaign for universality of the Rome Statute. The Assembly meets once a year, alternately in The Hague and in New York. In the intersessional period, its business is conducted by a Bureau headed by the President of the Assembly.

The Court currently finds itself in a time of transition. In December 2011 States Parties elected Ms Fatou Bensouda as the second-ever prosecutor of the Court. The Court delivered its first verdict, in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo* in March 2012. Also, the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of its founding treaty, the Rome Statute, on 1 July 2012 is an occasion to contemplate the Court's achievements to date and to identify future challenges.