

Without going into details, we have to be very clear that the future development of the International Criminal Court would be determined by quite a number of factors. We believe that, in order to establish its authority, to build states' confidence and trust in the Court and to achieve its universality, the Court should operate in strict accordance with the following: firstly, the principle of complementarity, i.e., the role of the ICC is to complement rather than to supersede the national judicial institutions of States and should not prejudice the exercise of jurisdiction by States within their domestic judicial systems over persons who have committed a most serious international offence; secondly, the jurisdiction of the ICC should be confined to the most serious international crimes as provided in the Rome Statute; thirdly, the activities of the ICC should not contravene the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations; fourthly, the ICC should perform its functions in an objective and just manner and should be free of political prejudice and double standards, thus saving it from becoming a forum of politically-motivated allegations or prosecutions.

Although we are not quite sure how the ICC will operate, we should not be pessimistic about the future of the Court. The universal support for and cooperation with the ICC as a result of its just and effective operation would be much desirable for the international community and undoubtedly be conducive to the development of international law. That is also what we expect to see. As an observer state at the future Assembly of States Parties, China will continue with a sense of seriousness and responsibility to follow closely the evolution and operation of the ICC. China is willing and ready to make further contribution to the rule of law in the international community.

I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.