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Wednesday, 17 July 2019, 1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 1

Opening remarks and moderation:

H.E. Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the UN

Panel:

H.E. Birgitta Tazelaar, Deputy Vice Minister, the Netherlands

H.E. Margareta Cederfelt, Member of Parliament of Sweden, President of Parliamentarians for Global Action

Hon. Justice Miatta Maria Samba, Justice of the Court of Appeal, Chair Legal Aid Board of Sierra Leone

Mr. Carlos Castresana Fernández, Former Head of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala

Ms. Mama Koité Doumbia, Board Member of the Trust Fund for Victims

Closing remarks:

Mr. Chile Eboe-Osuji, President of the International Criminal Court

Purpose of the meeting:

On international justice day, the Permanent Missions of Argentina, Ecuador, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Spain as well as Parliamentarians for Global Action will host a high-level side event to commemorate the historic adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 17 July 1998 and to highlight the crucial role of international criminal justice in achieving SDG16.

Meeting SDG16 is essential to the success of the 2030 Agenda – the implementation of all its goals requires strong, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. SDG16 is aimed at creating peaceful and stable societies, based on the rule of law and ensuring inclusive participation for all. In the long-term, stable societies are also the key to preventing conflict and violence. In this context, international criminal justice, and the Rome Statute system in particular, play a crucial role in helping to achieve these objectives. Specifically, the Rome Statute's principle of complementarity helps promote the rule of law at the national-level and helps to ensure equal access to justice for all. It does this by encouraging national efforts to investigate and prosecute international crimes through, inter alia, the strengthening of the independence and capacity of the judiciary, the police and prosecutors to conduct effective investigations, as well as the creation of protection-programs for victims and witnesses. Within the framework of SDG16, the ICC also stands as a leading institution in efforts to end abuse and exploitation of children and women, reduce all forms of violence, promote the rule of law and provide access to justice.

This event offers a unique high-level platform for States Parties and other international partners to public highlight their efforts to support the implementation of SDG16 including their efforts to support the work of the ICC and other international justice institutions and initiatives.

Format:

After interventions from the podium, the floor will be opened for statements. The organizers would welcome in particular high-level statements.

To reserve a place on the informal speaking list as well as for any further questions, please contact: Mr. Sina Alavi, Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the UN (+1 212 599 0220 ext. 230 | sa@nyc.llv.li).