

The Hague / New York, 7 July 2014

**H.E. Mr. Petro Poroshenko**  
**President of Ukraine**

*Re: Ukraine's Ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)*

Your Excellency,

We have the honor of writing to you on behalf of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), a global network of more than 2,500 non-governmental and civil society organizations in 150 countries, advocating for a fair, effective, and independent Court as well as increased access to justice for victims of crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes.

As part of its Campaign for Global Justice for the month of July 2014, the Coalition is urging Ukraine to expedite efforts to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Your Excellency, Ukraine has demonstrated its support for the international justice system created by the Rome Statute on numerous occasions, starting with its active participation in the 1998 Rome Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, followed by the signing of the Rome Statute on 20 January 2000.

As the first non-state party to ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the ICC (APIC) – an essential mechanism for the effective functioning of the Court – on 29 January 2007 Ukraine became a model for countries that still need to accede to that agreement.

Reforms made to the Code of Criminal Procedure in 2012 which introduced a whole new chapter on international cooperation, including provisions for cooperation with international judicial institutions, were welcome first steps to bringing Ukrainian national legislation into conformity with the tenets of the Rome Statute regarding cooperation with the ICC – a necessary exercise in the full engagement with the Rome Statute system.

More recently, on 17 April 2014, the declaration made under Article 12.3 of the Rome Statute accepting the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over alleged crimes committed during the so-called “Maidan” protests was testament to the recognition by Ukraine of the contribution of the international justice system to addressing impunity.

The signature on 27 June 2014 of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, which highlights the need for Ukraine to work towards ratification and implementation of the Statute, further reflects Ukraine's intention to seek an end to impunity for grave international crimes through the Rome Statute and the groundbreaking international justice system it created.

Your Excellency, we welcome the recent calls to consider ways to advance towards ratification of the Rome Statute. We are fully aware that the Constitutional Court's ruling of 2001 remains a

hurdle for ratification; this has most notably been addressed in a draft law to amend the constitution proposed by 199 Members of the Verkhovna Rada on 14 May 2014.

We hope you will work to ensure that progress towards ratification proceeds without delay. Ukraine's membership in the ICC would be one of the best ways to ensure that perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice, that mass human rights violations are recognized as such, and that victims receive redress for their suffering. Membership may also deter the commission of such crimes in the future, ending the potentially cyclical nature of violence, and contributing to a sustainable peace.

Your Excellency, as of today there are 122 States Parties to the Rome Statute. However, many others remain outside the system. Securing universal membership of the Court is not only crucial for ensuring the global jurisdiction, legitimacy, and support for the Court but would also represent a commitment to eradicating the culture of impunity, and at the same time advancing the principles of democracy, good governance, justice, and the rule of law.

We hope to see you among the ICC States Parties in the near future.

Sincerely,



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CC:

**H.E. Mr. Arseniy Yatsenyuk**, Prime Minister

**H.E. Mr. Pavlo Klimkin**, Minister of Foreign Affairs

**H.E. Mr. Pavlo Petrenko**, Minister of Justice

**H.E. Mr. Yuriy A. Sergeyev**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

**H.E. Mr. Olexander Horin**, Ambassador of Ukraine to The Netherlands

**H.E. Mr. Kostiantyn Yeliseiev**, Head of the Mission of Ukraine to the EU

**H.E. Mr. Yurii Klymenko**, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva

**H.E. Mr. Mykola Tochytskyi**, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the Council of Europe

**H.E. Mr. Ihor Prokopchuk**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the international organizations in Vienna

**H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Rybak**, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada

**H.E. Mr. Yurii Baulin**, Chairman of the Constitutional Court