

Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, during UN Security Council Meeting on the Libyan case in the International Criminal Court on November 07, 2012

Now I would like to make a statement in my national capacity.

I also would like to join others in thanking the Prosecutor, Mrs. Fatou Bensouda for her briefing today.

2. At the outset, let me state that India is not a party to the Rome Statute, for reasons that are well known. I need not reiterate them here. We, however, support the rights and obligations of the States that are members of the ICC.

3. India strongly condemns all acts of violence committed against civilians. We believe that the right to life is one of the fundamental rights and should be the foundation of any social order. It is the obligation of all States to take appropriate measures to protect the life of their citizens, while maintaining social order. The concerned States must also bring to justice those responsible for violations of this right.

4. During the conflict in Libya there were deaths and destruction on a massive scale by parties to the conflict. In the post-conflict scenario, proliferation of weapons has emerged as a major problem posing threat to stability in Libya as well as in the larger region. The Libyan government has to confront this challenge by undertaking an inclusive political process aimed at achieving national reconciliation, peace, security and stability in the country. In this connection, we welcome the progress achieved towards establishing democracy in Libya, and commend the people and Government of Libya for holding elections to the national congress. We hope that peace, stability, and socio-economic development will soon return to Libya.

5. The international community, including the Security Council and the ICC, should fully assist the Libyan authorities in this process. This inclusive approach to national reconciliation, anchored in state sovereignty, is the only way to overcome the problems that Libya is presently facing.

6. We have noted that the Prosecutor's comments today, and expect that she will carry out a thorough and impartial investigation of the situation in Libya in an impartial and transparent manner. The Council had referred a situation and, therefore, a report on the investigation of the situation so referred is important. All those responsible for committing alleged crimes should be held accountable. Political or other non-judicial considerations should not exonerate anybody from prosecution for the crimes committed.

7. Last, but not the least, it is also important to ensure that all actions by the ICC Prosecutor should fall strictly within the ambit of Resolution 1970, particularly

paragraph 6 of the resolution that concerns the States that are not parties to the Rome Statute.

Thank you.

BACK TO SECURITY COUNCIL