

**MESSAGE FROM MAMA KOITE DOUMBIA
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TRUST FUND FOR VICTIMS AT THE ICC**

Dear fellow participants,

We were anticipating to physically participating in this annual event of 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic came to plague the whole world and ended the plan.

I would have liked to be with you during this virtual round table meeting to discuss current challenges and also to have dialogues at various organs of the Court. However, I am very pleased to inform you the presence of my fellow Board member, Baroness Arminka Helić, who is participating in this meeting on behalf of the TFV Board.

This year we have experienced a sad situation within the TFV Board of Directors. Our Board Chair, the late Felipe Michelini was the victim of a domestic accident which cost him his life on April 19 2020 in his country, Uruguay.

At this solemn moment of our meeting I ask you to observe a moment of silence for his soul to rest in peace, and for all the remarkable and dedicated work that he has done for international criminal justice system and the promotion of the rights of victims.

I was elected the new Chair of the TFV Board of Directors on 29 April 2020 to continue carrying this torch. In the circumstances, I would like to reiterate all my gratitude to my colleagues who elected me unanimously.

I pledge to maintain confidence and give the best so that the TFV, which is one of the pillars of the Rome Statute, can serve more.

Our main goal is to help the victims and their families overcome the suffering they have suffered, lead a dignified life and participate in reconciliation and peacebuilding in their communities.

A very important mission and values in the quest to make reparative justice a tangible and meaningful reality for victims.

We want to have a stronger voice with the States Parties, to remind them of their responsibilities but also to partners and everyone to express the countless needs for support and solidarity towards victims.

Dear colleagues, I would like to ask you to join your voices together with the TFV to advocate for more substantial voluntary contributions.

The right to receive reparations is quite simply a human right.

I invite you to support the TFV at a time when the world is likely to face a new world order with all these questions after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The contributions of civil society to the independent review experts for the review of the ICC can help the ICC and the TFV to improve its performances in order to respond to malfunctions and many criticisms which can undermine this instrument of justice in the service of humanity.

The road ahead is long and full of challenges. We need to join forces for more justice and for world peace.

Let us remain committed to our combat against impunity and for international criminal justice.

The success of the Trust Fund for Victims will be that of the Rome Statute.

Mama KOITE DOUMBIA