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To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the International Criminal Court (ICC), I am pleased to introduce the ICC Moot Court Competition in the Russian language, which will be organised by the Faculty of Law of the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow, Russian Federation. As in previous years, the final is expected to take place at the premises of the ICC, judged by ICC judges and/or legal staff from the Court.

The ICC was established in 2002 to help end impunity for the gravest international crimes. To date, 123 states have acceded to or ratified the ICC's founding treaty, the Rome Statute. As the first and only permanent international criminal court, the ICC presents an exciting and challenging forum for an international trial competition, offering both established precedents and new judicial possibilities for the participants to explore.

One of the most effective ways to ensure the ICC has the support it requires is to promote global awareness about its role, jurisdiction and activities. Knowledge of the ICC in the legal community is of particular relevance, and the ICC Moot Court Competition will provide an ideal opportunity for law students around the world to develop an in-depth understanding of the complex issues the ICC faces in carrying out its judicial mandate, applying its procedural rules and addressing matters that pertain to the crimes under its jurisdiction.

Supporting the ICC Moot Court Competition will help ensure the success of an event of major significance for a new generation of lawyers that will one day serve the growing system of international criminal justice.

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