Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court by Guatemala

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, made the following statement today:

"I warmly welcome Guatemala's accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 2 April 2012. I am convinced that Guatemala will make a highly valuable contribution to the Court's work.

I hope that Guatemala's accession will encourage other countries, in particular in Central America, to ratify the Statute. Without universal participation of all States, the Court will not be able to fulfill its role as a key instrument in combating impunity when the most serious crimes are committed and national courts are unwilling or unable to investigate and prosecute. The ICC also has a significant role to play in preventing and deterring these crimes."

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