

## The Role of the International Criminal Court in Combating War Crimes



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**Abstract:** *The International Criminal Court, established by the Rome Statute in 1998, is a pivotal institution in the global fight against war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity. As the first permanent international court with jurisdiction over these grave offenses, the ICC seeks to hold individuals accountable and provide justice for victims. This article explores the ICC's role in combating war crimes by examining its structure, functions, and jurisdiction. It also highlights key cases that illustrate the Court's impact and delves into the significant challenges the ICC faces, including political interference, limited jurisdiction, resource constraints, and issues with enforcing arrest warrants. Despite these challenges, the ICC has made notable contributions to international justice, serving as a deterrent against future atrocities and influencing national legal systems through its jurisprudence. Strengthening the ICC's capabilities and addressing its limitations are crucial for enhancing its effectiveness in the ongoing global effort to combat war crimes and ensure justice for victims.*

**Keywords:** Accountability, International Criminal Court, International justice, Jurisdiction. Rome Statute, War crimes

### Introduction

War crimes, defined as serious violations of international humanitarian law committed during armed conflicts, represent some of the most egregious breaches of human rights. Throughout history, these crimes have inflicted profound suffering on individuals and communities, leaving a legacy of trauma and injustice. The international community has long sought mechanisms to address and prevent such atrocities, culminating in the establishment of the International Criminal Court. The ICC was conceived in response to the limitations of ad hoc tribunals, such as those established for the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials after World War II

and later for conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. These tribunals, while significant, were temporary and limited in scope, highlighting the need for a permanent institution to address crimes of a similar magnitude globally. In 1998, this vision materialized with the adoption of the Rome Statute, which laid the foundation for the ICC. Formally inaugurated in 2002, the ICC is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, and is the first permanent international court with the mandate to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. Its creation was a landmark in international law, reflecting a global

commitment to ensuring accountability for perpetrators of the most serious crimes and providing justice for victims (Schabas, 2010; Khan et al., 2024).

This article aims to explore the multifaceted role of the ICC in combating war crimes. It will delve into the Court's structure, its jurisdiction, and the processes involved in investigations and prosecutions. Additionally, the article will highlight significant cases that illustrate the ICC's impact on international justice. Despite its achievements, the ICC faces numerous challenges, including political interference, jurisdictional limitations, resource constraints, and difficulties in enforcing arrest warrants. By examining these challenges and the Court's responses, this article seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the ICC's contributions to the global fight against war crimes and the ongoing efforts to enhance its effectiveness (Alexander, 2009; KHAN et al., 2022).

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research employs a qualitative methodology, focusing on reviewing primary and secondary sources to explore the role of the International Criminal Court in combating war crimes. Primary sources include legal documents such as the Rome Statute of the ICC (1998), which establishes the Court's jurisdiction and functions, as well as official documents and amendments from the Assembly of States Parties. Key case law and judicial decisions, such as those involving Thomas Lubanga, Jean-Pierre Bemba, and Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi, are examined to understand the ICC's application of legal principles. Official reports and statements from the Office of the Prosecutor provide insights into prosecutorial strategies and challenges. Secondary sources include scholarly books like William A. Schabas's "The International Criminal Court: A Commentary on the Rome Statute" and Antonio Cassese et al.'s "International Criminal Law: Cases and Commentary," offering comprehensive analyses of the ICC's legal framework and historical context. Academic articles from journals such as the African Journal of Legal Studies and thematic articles on

challenges like political interference and jurisdictional limitations are also reviewed. Additionally, reports by NGOs like Human Rights Watch and publications by international organizations provide critical perspectives and broader contextual information. Data collection involves systematically gathering these materials from reliable sources, and analysis focuses on synthesizing them to assess the ICC's legal framework, effectiveness, and operational challenges, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of its role in combating war crimes (Hussain, et al., 2023).

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The concept of holding individuals criminally responsible for war crimes has evolved significantly over the past century, rooted in the atrocities witnessed during World War II. The Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals, established in the aftermath of the war, were pioneering efforts to prosecute individuals for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. These tribunals set important precedents by affirming that individuals, including state leaders and military officials, could be held accountable for international crimes. The Nuremberg Trials, conducted from 1945 to 1946, prosecuted key figures of the Nazi regime, such as Hermann Göring, Rudolf Hess, and Albert Speer. These trials were groundbreaking in several ways: they established the principles of individual criminal responsibility and command responsibility, and they set the foundation for defining crimes against humanity and genocide. Similarly, the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal prosecuted Japanese leaders for their roles in wartime atrocities, further reinforcing the notion that leaders could be held accountable for their actions during conflict (Zakir et al., 2024).

However, these tribunals were ad hoc and limited in scope and temporality. They addressed crimes committed during a specific period and within a specific context, lacking a permanent or universal mandate. Moreover, the establishment of these tribunals was influenced by the victors of World War II, raising questions about impartiality and the selective application of justice. Despite these limitations, the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals were

instrumental in shaping the post-war international legal order and the development of international criminal law. The limitations of these ad hoc tribunals underscored the need for a permanent international judicial body to address war crimes and other serious international crimes. Efforts to create such a body gained momentum during the latter half of the 20th century. The International Law Commission (ILC) of the United Nations began drafting a statute for an international criminal court in the 1950s, but Cold War politics delayed progress (Caesius, 1999).

The atrocities committed during the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda in the 1990s reinvigorated the push for a permanent international court. The international community's response to these conflicts included the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 1993 and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in 1994. These tribunals demonstrated the international community's commitment to holding perpetrators of mass atrocities accountable, but their temporary and situation-specific nature highlighted the need for a permanent solution. The culmination of these efforts was the adoption of the Rome Statute on July 17, 1998, which established the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Rome Statute was a landmark achievement, reflecting a broad international consensus on the need for a permanent institution to prosecute individuals for the most serious crimes of international concern, including genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. The Statute provided a comprehensive legal framework for the ICC, defining its jurisdiction, functions, and structure. The ICC was formally established on July 1, 2002, when the Rome Statute came into force after being ratified by 60 countries. Unlike its predecessors, the ICC is a permanent institution with a universal mandate, designed to operate independently of any specific conflict or political influence. It represents a significant advancement in the international legal order, embodying the principles of justice, accountability, and the rule

of law on a global scale (Kielsgard, 2005).

## **STRUCTURE AND JURISDICTION OF THE ICC**

The International Criminal Court is an independent international organization headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands. Established under the Rome Statute, the ICC operates as a permanent institution with a mandate to prosecute individuals for the most serious crimes of international concern. It is governed by the Assembly of States Parties, which comprises representatives from countries that have ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute. The ICC's jurisdiction extends to four core international crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. These crimes are defined and codified in the Rome Statute, providing a legal framework for the Court's operations. The ICC's jurisdiction is primarily territorial, covering crimes committed within the territory of a State Party or by its nationals. However, the Court may also exercise jurisdiction over crimes committed by non-State Parties if the United Nations Security Council refers the situation to the ICC, as was the case with Darfur, Sudan, and Libya (Philips, 1999; Hussain et al, 2023).

### ***The Pre-Trial, Trial, and Appeals Chambers***

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is structured into three essential judicial divisions: the Pre-Trial Division, the Trial Division, and the Appeals Division. Each division plays a critical role in overseeing a comprehensive legal process that spans from initial investigation to final judgment and appeal. The Pre-Trial Division manages the early stages of cases, conducting preliminary examinations to determine the existence of sufficient evidence for formal investigations. It also authorizes the Prosecutor to proceed with investigations and issues arrest warrants or summonses for individuals accused of committing crimes within the ICC's jurisdiction. This division ensures procedural fairness and protects the rights of the accused during these preliminary phases (Berg, 1996).

Following the pre-trial phase, cases progress to the Trial Division, where substantive trials are

conducted. The Trial Chamber hears evidence presented by the Office of the Prosecutor and the defense, evaluates witness testimonies, and deliberates on the guilt or innocence of the accused. This division ensures that trials adhere to the principles of fairness and impartiality laid out in the Rome Statute. Upon conclusion of the trial, the Trial Chamber delivers a judgment based on the evidence and legal arguments presented by both parties. The Appeals Division serves as the final appellate body within the ICC, tasked with reviewing appeals brought against judgments and sentences handed down by the Trial Division. It evaluates legal arguments and examines alleged errors in the application of law or procedure during the trial. The Appeals Chamber ensures that decisions align with the Rome Statute and established principles of international law, thereby upholding the integrity and consistency of the ICC's judicial process (Tu, 2011).

Operating independently within the ICC, the Office of the Prosecutor is responsible for investigating and prosecuting individuals accused of committing genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, or the crime of aggression. The Prosecutor's office conducts thorough investigations, gathers evidence, interviews witnesses, and builds cases to present before the judicial divisions of the Court. This independent role ensures that prosecutorial decisions are guided by legal principles and evidence-based assessments of alleged crimes. Supporting the judicial divisions, the Registry of the ICC provides administrative and operational assistance. It manages the logistical aspects of the Court's activities, facilitates communication between parties involved in proceedings, and ensures the efficient functioning of ICC operations. By coordinating logistics and administrative support, the Registry enables the judicial divisions to focus on their core functions of adjudicating cases and ensuring due process (Gallant, 2003).

## **INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS**

The International Criminal Court (ICC) operates as a permanent international judicial institution tasked with prosecuting individuals responsible for the most serious international crimes. The

ICC Prosecutor has the authority to initiate investigations under three main circumstances: referrals from States Parties to the Rome Statute, referrals from the United Nations Security Council, or through the Prosecutor's own initiative (*proprio motu*) based on information received or obtained. This broad mandate enables the ICC to address situations where national jurisdictions are unable or unwilling to prosecute individuals accused of committing genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. Investigations conducted by the ICC are thorough and meticulous processes aimed at collecting evidence to establish the guilt or innocence of the accused. The Prosecutor's office employs a variety of investigative techniques, including gathering documentary evidence, conducting forensic examinations, and interviewing witnesses, both directly and through cooperation with national authorities and international organizations. These efforts are crucial in building robust cases that meet the stringent evidentiary standards required for prosecution before the ICC (Tiemessen, 2014).

In practice, the ICC has handled numerous high-profile cases that have garnered international attention and significance. One such case involved Thomas Lubanga, a former Congolese warlord convicted of recruiting child soldiers to fight in the Democratic Republic of Congo's conflict. Another prominent case was against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, indicted for alleged genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity in connection with the Darfur conflict. These cases underscore the ICC's role in pursuing justice for victims and holding accountable those responsible for the gravest violations of international humanitarian law. The ICC's investigative and prosecutorial efforts not only seek to deliver justice for individual victims but also serve broader goals of deterrence and prevention of future atrocities. By prosecuting individuals responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression, the ICC aims to reinforce the rule of law globally and contribute to the protection of human rights and international peace and security. Despite challenges and

criticisms, the ICC remains a pivotal institution in the international legal landscape, striving to ensure accountability for the most severe international crimes and uphold the principles of justice on a global scale (Sarkin, 2020).

### **CHALLENGES FACING THE ICC**

Despite its significant achievements, the ICC faces numerous challenges. These include:

#### ***Political Interference***

The effectiveness of the International Criminal Court (ICC) is often hampered by political interference, where powerful states may obstruct investigations or prosecutions for political reasons. This interference undermines the ICC's ability to fulfill its mandate of prosecuting individuals responsible for the most serious international crimes, including genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression. Political considerations can manifest in various forms, such as reluctance by states to cooperate fully with ICC investigations or prosecutions involving their nationals or allies. This lack of cooperation may include failure to execute arrest warrants issued by the ICC or refusal to provide access to crucial evidence and witnesses. Such actions undermine the ICC's efforts to gather sufficient evidence and conduct fair and impartial trials (Khan, 2016).

Moreover, non-member states that have not ratified the Rome Statute are not legally bound to cooperate with the ICC. This absence of legal obligation complicates the ICC's ability to investigate and prosecute crimes committed within the territories of non-member states or involving their nationals. As a result, the ICC may face significant challenges in accessing crime scenes, gathering evidence, and obtaining custody of suspects located in non-member states. These challenges highlight the need for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to the ICC's mandate and to strengthen mechanisms for enforcing international criminal law. Efforts to mitigate political interference include advocating for universal ratification of the Rome Statute, promoting accountability for states that obstruct ICC investigations, and enhancing diplomatic and legal frameworks for cooperation among

states. Despite these obstacles, the ICC continues to play a crucial role in holding individuals accountable for grave international crimes and advancing the cause of global justice. By addressing political interference and strengthening international cooperation, the ICC can enhance its effectiveness and contribute to the prevention of impunity for the most severe violations of human rights and humanitarian law worldwide (Nerland, 2008).

#### ***Limited Jurisdiction***

The International Criminal Court (ICC) faces significant limitations in its jurisdiction, which hinder its ability to address all instances of war crimes and other serious international offenses globally. One of the primary jurisdictional limitations of the ICC is that it can only prosecute individuals for crimes committed on the territory of a State Party to the Rome Statute or by its nationals. This means that crimes committed by individuals who are nationals of non-member states, or crimes committed on the territories of non-member states, fall outside the ICC's jurisdiction unless the UN Security Council refers the situation to the Court. This jurisdictional constraint arises from the voluntary nature of state participation in the ICC. Non-member states, which have not ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute, are not legally obligated to cooperate with the ICC or comply with its requests for assistance in investigations or prosecutions. As a result, the ICC may face challenges in accessing crime scenes, gathering evidence, and obtaining custody of suspects located in non-member states. The reliance on UN Security Council referrals to expand jurisdiction further complicates matters. While such referrals have been instrumental in enabling the ICC to address crimes in situations such as Darfur and Libya, they are subject to geopolitical considerations and potential veto power by Security Council members. This selective approach to referrals can undermine the Court's perceived impartiality and effectiveness in addressing global justice concerns (Kaul, 2007).

Despite these challenges, the ICC continues to play a crucial role in prosecuting individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes,

and aggression where it has jurisdiction. Efforts to expand the Court's jurisdiction through advocacy for universal ratification of the Rome Statute and enhanced cooperation among states are ongoing. Additionally, the ICC works to strengthen its partnerships with international organizations and civil society to promote accountability and justice worldwide. Addressing the ICC's jurisdictional limitations requires concerted efforts by the international community to reinforce the rule of law, uphold human rights standards, and ensure accountability for perpetrators of the most severe international crimes. By navigating these challenges and advocating for broader jurisdictional authority, the ICC can contribute more effectively to the prevention of impunity and the promotion of global peace and security (Steinberg, 2016).

### ***Resource Constraints***

The International Criminal Court (ICC) faces significant challenges related to resource constraints, which impact its ability to conduct thorough investigations and prosecutions effectively. Adequate financial and human resources are essential for the ICC to fulfill its mandate of prosecuting individuals responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression. Financial constraints pose a substantial challenge to the ICC's operations. As an independent judicial institution, the ICC relies on contributions from member states, international organizations, and other donors to fund its activities. The availability and predictability of funding directly influence the Court's capacity to initiate and sustain investigations, conduct trials, provide legal representation for defendants, and support victims' participation in proceedings. Insufficient funding can lead to delays in case proceedings, limited outreach efforts, and constraints on staffing and operational activities (Tumukunde, 2018).

Human resources also present a critical challenge for the ICC. The Court depends on a skilled and diverse workforce of judges, prosecutors, investigators, legal officers, and support staff to carry out its functions effectively. Recruitment, training, and retention

of qualified personnel are essential to ensure the quality and efficiency of ICC operations. Moreover, the workload of ICC staff can be substantial, particularly given the complex nature of international criminal cases and the rigorous legal standards that must be met during investigations and trials. Resource constraints impact every aspect of the ICC's work, from initial investigations and evidence collection to courtroom proceedings and support services for victims and witnesses. These limitations can affect the timeliness and thoroughness of ICC responses to situations of mass atrocities and human rights abuses worldwide.

Addressing resource constraints requires sustained efforts by member states, international organizations, and the broader international community. Enhancing financial contributions to the ICC's budget, ensuring predictable funding mechanisms, and supporting capacity-building initiatives are essential steps to strengthen the Court's operational capacity. Additionally, investing in the recruitment and training of qualified personnel, including legal experts and investigators, is crucial to bolstering the ICC's ability to effectively prosecute cases and uphold international justice standards. By addressing resource constraints and ensuring adequate support for its operations, the international community can enable the ICC to fulfill its mandate more effectively, contribute to the prevention of impunity, and promote accountability for the most severe international crimes (Khan et al., 2023).

### ***Enforcement of Arrest Warrants***

The International Criminal Court (ICC) faces significant challenges in the enforcement of arrest warrants, which are essential for bringing suspects accused of serious international crimes to justice. The ICC issues arrest warrants for individuals indicted for crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression, relying on member states to execute these warrants and apprehend suspects. However, the enforcement of ICC arrest warrants often encounters obstacles due to lack of cooperation from member states. Member states may hesitate to arrest and surrender individuals sought by the ICC for political,

diplomatic, or logistical reasons. Some states may prioritize domestic considerations or strategic alliances over their international obligations to the ICC, leading to delays or refusals in executing arrest warrants (Hussain et al., 2023).

The case of Joseph Kony, the infamous leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda, serves as a prominent example. Despite being indicted by the ICC in 2005 for war crimes and crimes against humanity, Kony remained at large for years, primarily due to non-cooperation from states in the region where he was believed to be hiding. The ICC's reliance on member states to facilitate arrests and surrender suspects underscores the critical importance of international cooperation in ensuring accountability for serious international crimes. Efforts to improve the enforcement of ICC arrest warrants include diplomatic engagement, advocacy for compliance with international legal obligations, and capacity-building initiatives to enhance states' abilities to apprehend suspects. Strengthening legal frameworks and mechanisms for cooperation among states, including extradition agreements and mutual legal assistance treaties, can also facilitate the timely execution of ICC arrest warrants (Khan et al., 2023).

Moreover, the ICC works closely with international organizations, regional bodies, and civil society groups to enhance awareness of its arrest warrants and garner support for their enforcement. Public pressure and international scrutiny can play a role in encouraging member states to fulfill their obligations under the Rome Statute and support the ICC's efforts to promote justice and accountability. Addressing challenges in the enforcement of ICC arrest warrants requires sustained efforts by the international community to uphold the rule of law, strengthen international cooperation, and ensure that individuals accused of the most serious international crimes are brought to justice. By overcoming these obstacles, the ICC can enhance its effectiveness in combating impunity and promoting global peace and security (Khan et al., 2022).

## IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite these challenges, the ICC has made significant contributions to international justice. It has provided a platform for victims to seek redress, contributed to the development of international criminal law, and acted as a deterrent against future atrocities. The ICC's jurisprudence has also influenced national courts, promoting the principle of complementarity (Riaz et al., 2022).

### *Case Studies*

1. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo: Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, a Congolese warlord, became the ICC's first conviction in 2012. He was found guilty of recruiting and using child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This landmark case established a precedent for holding individuals accountable for the recruitment and use of child soldiers in armed conflicts. Lubanga's conviction highlighted the ICC's role in prosecuting individuals responsible for grave violations against children in conflict zones (Tsilonis, 2008).

2. Jean-Pierre Bemba: In 2016, Jean-Pierre Bemba, a former Vice President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, was convicted by the ICC for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Central African Republic (CAR). The case focused on atrocities committed by Bemba's troops, including murder, rape, and pillaging, during a conflict in CAR. Importantly, this case underscored the ICC's role in addressing sexual violence as a tool of war and holding high-ranking officials accountable for crimes committed by their subordinates (Anthony, 2016).

3. Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi: Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi, a Malian jihadist leader, was convicted by the ICC in 2016 for his role in the destruction of cultural heritage sites in Timbuktu, Mali. This case marked the first time the ICC prosecuted an individual solely for crimes related to the destruction of cultural property. Al Mahdi's actions targeted UNESCO World Heritage sites, including mosques and mausoleums, during Mali's conflict in 2012. The ICC's verdict highlighted its commitment to protecting cultural heritage during armed conflicts and

promoting accountability for the deliberate destruction of irreplaceable cultural landmarks (Taffo, 2016).

These case studies demonstrate the ICC's role in prosecuting individuals for serious international crimes, including crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the destruction of cultural heritage. They also underscore the ICC's efforts to uphold justice, promote accountability, and protect vulnerable populations and cultural treasures affected by armed conflicts.

## **FUTURE PROSPECTS**

The future effectiveness of the International Criminal Court (ICC) hinges on several critical factors. Firstly, increasing state cooperation is essential for the ICC to effectively carry out its mandate. States Parties to the Rome Statute must cooperate fully with ICC investigations and prosecutions, including the arrest and surrender of suspects. Enhanced cooperation facilitates the gathering of evidence and ensures the credibility of ICC proceedings (Khan et al., 2021).

Secondly, adequate funding is crucial to sustain the ICC's operations and initiatives. As an independent judicial institution, the ICC relies on contributions from member states and other sources to fund its activities. Ensuring stable and sufficient funding allows the ICC to conduct thorough investigations, provide adequate resources for trials, and maintain its infrastructure and staff (KHAN et al., 2021).

Thirdly, enhancing the Court's legitimacy through fair and transparent processes is vital. The ICC must uphold the highest standards of judicial integrity, impartiality, and transparency in its proceedings. Fair trials and due process not only strengthen the credibility of the ICC but also foster trust among states, victims, and the international community at large (Usman et al., 2021).

Furthermore, efforts to expand the ICC's jurisdiction and improve enforcement mechanisms can bolster its effectiveness in combating war crimes and other serious international offenses. Advocating for universal ratification of the Rome Statute and strengthening legal frameworks for cooperation

among states can broaden the ICC's reach and facilitate the prosecution of perpetrators regardless of their nationality or location (Usman et al., 2021).

Looking ahead, ongoing efforts to address challenges such as political interference, resource constraints, and criticisms of selectivity will be crucial for the ICC's continued relevance and impact. By navigating these challenges and implementing reforms, the ICC can fulfill its mandate more effectively, contribute to the prevention of atrocities, and promote global justice and accountability for the most severe international crimes (Khan et al., 2020).

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the International Criminal Court (ICC) plays a pivotal role in the global pursuit of justice and accountability for the most severe international crimes. Through landmark cases such as those of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, Jean-Pierre Bemba, and Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi, the ICC has established important precedents in international law. These cases have underscored the ICC's commitment to prosecuting individuals responsible for atrocities such as recruiting child soldiers, perpetrating war crimes and crimes against humanity, and destroying cultural heritage. Despite facing challenges such as political interference, limited jurisdiction, resource constraints, and difficulties in enforcing arrest warrants, the ICC continues to strive towards its mandate of ending impunity and promoting international peace and security. The Court's efforts are bolstered by increasing cooperation from member states, advocacy for universal ratification of the Rome Statute, and ongoing reforms aimed at enhancing its operational effectiveness.

Moving forward, the ICC must navigate these challenges while maintaining its impartiality, integrity, and commitment to due process. Strengthening international cooperation, securing adequate funding, and addressing political obstacles are crucial for the ICC to fulfill its role effectively. By upholding the rule of law and ensuring accountability for perpetrators of grave international crimes, the ICC contributes significantly to the protection of

human rights and the prevention of future atrocities worldwide. As the global community continues to support its mission, the ICC remains a vital institution in the pursuit of justice and the advancement of international humanitarian law.

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