



**Fonds au Profit des Victimes**  
**The Trust Fund for Victims**



***Ceremony in memory of Dr. Felipe Michelini in the Parliament of Uruguay***  
***Wednesday, 22 April 2020***

***Statement from the Trust Fund for Victims at the International Criminal Court***

To the President of the Assembly: the Trust Fund for Victims extends to you, and all colleagues, our deep-felt commiseration with the loss of Dr Felipe Michelini, whose sudden passing leaves us with the mournful echo of such a formidable presence, in Montevideo and in The Hague.

At the Trust Fund for Victims, we have hailed the elections of Felipe Michelini in 2015 and in 2018 as a member of the Board of Directors as truly important milestones. His election to become the Chair of the Board in 2018 embodied the recognition of his leadership qualities by his peers.

Felipe Michelini brought to the Fund an incredibly strong pedigree as a longstanding defender of human rights and accountability to victims, nationally in Uruguay and internationally in relation to the development of the International Criminal Court and the Trust Fund for Victims.

The Trust Fund for Victims wishes to recognise Felipe Michelini's pioneering activities as a parliamentarian and Deputy Minister for Education, Culture and Human Rights in Uruguay. In these capacities, he tirelessly worked to ensure the ratification of the Rome Statute by Uruguay and, no less important, to introduce legislation in 2006 to implement the Rome Statute in Uruguay, the first country in Latin America to do so. As an active member of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), Mr Michelini inspired many colleagues in the region and throughout the world to engage with and strengthen the Rome Statute system.

Felipe Michelini's extraordinary qualities of personal warmth, professional knowledge and political acumen made him exceptionally well suited to join and embody the leadership of the Trust Fund for Victims at the ICC, which is a pioneering institution that aims to make justice a tangible reality for victims of the most serious crimes. His was a strong and compelling voice, inside the Fund and in the public domain, for solidarity with victims and for accountability to victims, not only by those convicted of crimes but by states, and by the international community as a whole. In December 2019, Felipe Michelini in his first address as the Chair to the Assembly of States Parties made a characteristic statement, noting that "without reparations, there is no justice".

The Board and staff of the Trust Fund for Victims, and indeed the entire International Criminal Court, are in debt to Felipe Michelini for his advocacy to support the cause of victims – financially, morally and always with a view to strengthen their resilience and improve their lives and of their loved ones.

At the Trust Fund for Victims, we will cherish the legacy of the leadership of Felipe Michelini as a beacon for our future efforts to strengthen the Trust Fund for Victims, guided and supported by yourselves, as representatives of a people who in the past have suffered and overcome harm. Thank you.

For more information, please contact: [trustfundforvictims@icc-cpi.int](mailto:trustfundforvictims@icc-cpi.int) or visit: [www.trustfundforvictims.org](http://www.trustfundforvictims.org)