



HAA7058-71

VERBAL NOTE

With reference to note no. ICC-ASP/10/S/PA/07 of the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties, dated 7 February 2011, containing a request to convey information referred to in paragraph 6, sub-paragraph h, of the Plan of Action of the Assembly of States Parties for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Finland wishes to update the information provided in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

As already noted in the previous notes submitted, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland has a separate fund for providing financial assistance to projects related to the fight against impunity. During the past 24 months the fund has been used, inter alia, for sponsoring various ICC and ASP projects and funds. These projects include such as the Legal Tools project, programme on Strengthening the International Criminal Court – Reinforcing the Principle of Complementarity and Universality and Building High Quality Defence (2010–2011), the Seminar on the Protection of Victims and Witnesses organized in The Hague in November 2010 and the Conference on reparations entitled Reparations before the International Criminal Court: Issues and Challenges that was organized in The Hague in May 2011 by REDRESS and the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies of the Leiden University.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has continued to contribute to the Trust Fund for Victims and to the LDC Fund. The Ministry has also contributed financially to the ICC Special Fund for Relocations. Finland has also supported other institutions that directly or indirectly strengthen the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute, such as the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) and the International Criminal Law Network. Through CICC the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has in 2011 contributed in particular to a project with a focus on Middle East and Africa related activities. Finland also contributed to an expert workshop Giving Effect to the Law on War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity and Genocide in Southern Africa organized by International Criminal Law Services in Pretoria, South Africa in June 2011. The workshop discussed the current status of domestication of a number of international treaties and sought answers to some of the most pressing ratification and implementation challenges.

In November 2010, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs arranged a seminar entitled Justice for Victims of International Crimes and their Communities in Helsinki with the purpose of raising awareness of the activities of the ICC Trust Fund for Victims and the rights of victims of international crimes. In December 2010, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs contributed to an international conference titled The International Criminal Court and the Responsibility to Protect - Synergies and Tensions organized in Helsinki by the Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights of the University of Helsinki.

Finland has also taken action to promote universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute through the European Union's plan of action. In this regard the Embassy wishes to refer to the information submitted in 2011 on behalf of the European Union.

The Embassy of Finland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties the assurance of its highest consideration.

The Hague, 30 September 2011

International Criminal Court
The Secretariat for Assembly of States Parties
The Hague