



**Remarks of President Song to Ambassador Juan Martabit
Welcoming Ceremony for Chile as 109th State Party, 17 September 2009**

Excellency,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the International Criminal Court this morning, and to welcome Chile as a State Party to the Rome Statute. I was in New York at the end of June, just after the vote on ratification. Your Permanent Mission hosted a reception to mark the occasion, and I was pleased to be able to make some remarks there. Since then, Chile deposited its instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General. On the first of this month, it became the 109th State Party.

We met last in this room in May, during President Bachelet's visit. It was an honour to receive her here as Chile was weighing ratification of the Rome Statute. I know that the process was not simple, and not without controversy. Where competing narratives of history offer diverging stories of suffering and triumph, perpetrators and heroes, it never is. Even as Chile sifts through its past, by joining the Rome Statute, it has made clear its commitment to a

particular vision of a common human future. It is a future of accountability – a future of justice for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

This future is being shaped here today. It is being shaped in our courtrooms, by investigations in the field, by outreach to affected communities, and through many other aspects of the Court's work.

But this is a court of last resort. A future of accountability for the worst crimes is also developing in a broader context. Under the Rome Statute, the primary responsibility to credibly investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of atrocity crimes rests with states. At the national level, more states are developing the capacity and will to provide a first line of justice.

Full realisation of the Rome Statute system remains a daunting task. This Court will play its part, working closely with States Parties. Chile has joined as a partner in this endeavour. Chile's commitment strengthens the determination enshrined in the Preamble of the Rome Statute: that accountability for atrocity crimes can contribute to the prevention of such crimes.

Excellency, I once again welcome Chile as a State Party. The Court looks forward to working with your government in the years ahead.

I would now like to invite Ambassador Lomonaco to the podium.

[Remain standing while Ambassador Lomonaco speaks.]

I would like to invite Ambassador Martabit to come forward.

[Join Ambassador Lomonaco in presenting the Rome Statute to Ambassador Martabit.]