



GREECE

**Seventh Session of the Assembly of States Parties
to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
The Hague, 14-22 November 2008**

General Debate

Statement by

**H.E. Konstantinos Rallis
Ambassador of Greece to the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**The Hague
Saturday, November 15, 2008**

Check against delivery

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ten years after the Rome Conference, all of us assembled here have reason to celebrate. The International Criminal Court was established seven years ago already, it is active, it is progressing and 108 States, more than half of the international community, are part thereof. The world is becoming more and more aware of ICC's role and mission and we are hopeful and confident that its impact will be increasingly felt in the years to come.

Mr. President,

Greece has been as from the very beginning a staunch supporter of the ICC. We have expressed our support in various ways, to the extent of our capabilities. Among our most recent initiatives, I would like to mention a colloque that the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized last summer on the island of Santorini in Greece where a host of very important questions of poignant actuality were informally discussed. Among these questions were the issue of the relationship between peace and justice, developments and prospects as regards the activation of the ICC's jurisdiction on the crime of aggression and the challenges faced by the Court at this point as well as into the future.

Mr. President,

There is no doubt that challenges are in front of us and we are not allowed to ignore them. Arrest warrants remain unexecuted, while cooperation on the part of States is in many instances severely lacking. The Court has been assigned a formidable task and it is logical that it should be provided with the means to deal with it. The United Nations Security Council should also be attentive to the needs of the Court particularly in view of its role in referring situations to the ICC, in accordance with the Statute.

Mr. President,

Despite the difficulties always encountered when a world institution such as the ICC is in the first phase of its existence, we remain hopeful that the hurdles will be finally overcome and that the Court will soon be able to exercise its functions to the full, in freedom and confidence, thus fulfilling the aspirations vested in it by the world community.

Thank you, Mr. President