

REPUBLIC OF POLAND

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

General Debate

**Statement by
H.E. Mr Janusz Stańczyk
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland
to the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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Mr President, distinguished delegates

Poland fully concurs with a statement made by distinguished representative of France on behalf of the European Union. Let me nevertheless add some remarks on the issues, which are of particular importance for my delegation.

In his statement issued on the occasion of the **Tenth Anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland said *inter alia*: “Ten years ago in Rome representatives of 120 States opened a new chapter in the development of international law (...). Poland is one of the strongest supporters of the International Criminal Court. We hope that its jurisdiction will be accepted universally, since violations and crimes of international concern are no longer issues of limited effect or responsibility of others. It is our shared responsibility to promote the rule of law all over the world and enhance the belief of people in the inevitability of administering justice. Poland is convinced that the International Criminal Court makes a significant contribution to this end”.

That statement illustrates in the best way Polish policy on the Court and underlines Court’s significant role in international relations. From the very beginning Poland welcomed with enthusiasm the works on the establishment of the Court. We all worked very hard in order to get the most satisfactory outcome.

Now, the Court is a legal, political and practical reality. It gives hope for those in despair of bringing to justice all offenders despite of their political or military position. It fills the gap, which existed before in institutional as well as operational spheres of international justice.

But in order to be able to implement effectively its challenging mandate, **the Court needs to be recognised universally and obtain full co-operation** of its Member States, and the whole international community. In that context Poland declares that it will continue to give the Court its strongest support and all necessary assistance. At the same time we wish to call upon all States that have not yet done it, to join the Rome Statute as soon as possible. We would also like to encourage all our partners to double efforts in order to provide the Court with all necessary co-operation, first and foremost to enable execution of the outstanding arrest warrants. We strongly believe that sorting out of this issue is essential for implementation of the ICC’s judicial tasks as well as for maintaining credibility of the Court and Members States who created it.

Mr President,

Poland welcomes the **outcome of work of the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression** achieved so far. The progress seems to be very substantial indeed.

We all are aware that some questions involved in defining crime of aggression and in particular the relationships between decisions of the UN Security Council and those of the Court on the issue, are highly politicised. Any solution of the matter should respect independent character of the Court and, on the other hand, powers and responsibilities vested by the UN Charter in the Security Council.

Polish delegation is ready to continue its active participation in the work of Special Working Group and is looking forward to completing this work quickly and effectively.

In the year **2010 the Review Conference will take place**. Poland is open to accept any reasonable and widely supported option concerning the venue of the Conference. Logistics and security issues are, in the opinion of this delegation, necessary “ingredients” of any acceptable deal. We acknowledge that there are strong arguments in favour of Kampala,

The role of the Court is to administer justice, when a crime of international concern has been committed and domestic system of justice does not act or is ineffective. Poland has no doubt about the continuous ability of the Court to fulfil this role appropriately and independently.

Thank you for your kind attention.