

## HUNGARY

### Statement of the Head of the Hungarian Delegation at the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of State Parties of the Rome Statute

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen – Dear Colleagues

A year ago at the same venue our delegation and all the others expressed their appreciations towards those excellent persons who contributed to the successful running of the Court main bodies and affiliated institutions. Now - a year later - should we only repeat our kind words? No, it would not be enough. The Court progressed quite well, the Honourable Judges made some decisions that were unique in history, the Prosecutor and his colleagues presented a well detailed working plan, while following investigations under unprecedented circumstances, the Registrar provided us with a reliable institutional background for all these activities. All the other bodies, the Bureau and the Secretariat, the Victims Trust Fund and the Hague and New York Working Groups performed well thus showing that all the activities now turned to a more matured phase –something we were expecting during the time of the Rome Conference. So let's praise again all those - whose determination, expertise and self sacrifice helped us to reach this phase. The success of the judicial activity of the Court became irreversible. It is now a well established institution of our World where the most serious crimes should not be left unpunished, regardless whether certain states are truly unable - even with their utmost efforts - or really unwilling to prosecute - even though they are aware of the dangerous character and unlawfulness of the particular crime case.

It's really a new phase in the Court's life – the successes are coupled with criticisms. We may take it as signs of maturity. The institutional system of the Court is now fully developed so it can cope with any challenge. Even the fact that the Court's moves provoke debates in the international community proves that from a book of strict legal principles we could develop a significant legal institution that is able to fight against the most heinous crimes.

Criminal justice has two goals: namely the special prevention and general prevention. On the one hand we may rest assured that those criminals who receive an appropriately meted out sentence from the Court will never repeat their acts but on the other hand the general prevention by the activity of the Court is still unproven. While we must continue our efforts – in a cost effective way - to enhance the activity of the Court we should still do our best to prevent these crimes.

As a new institution for prevention Hungary has called into life the Genocide Prevention Centre, based in Budapest. The Centre is a research institution that analyzes crises situations in the hot spots of the world in order to make recommendations for governments, specialised agencies and other bodies to intervene in the very best moment when the tensions of a situation may turn into mass atrocities or even genocide.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is proud to be here and it's a good feeling to be among friends regardless whether they are members or observers. My delegation wishes to welcome the two new member states. Their accession is a sign of small but steady increase in membership. However if we analyze the pace of the increment it's far from our earlier expectations. We pointed out a year ago that the sheer number of member states – that increased slowly like in the past year but came as a tidal wave like in the first years of this decade - is just one aspect of the

universality of the Rome Statute – what we really need is a proportionate representation both by continents with huge populations that are barely represented, and countries otherwise playing significant role in politics, economy and cultural life.

Financial issues become more important for every nations of the world – members or non members alike. One may say that justice should be meted out regardless of the costs – that is true. But huge fall in GDPs, increasing foreign debt and unexpected results of the crisis of the globalized economy made all nations think twice on spending. Even the most committed nations to the cause of the operation of the Court may face temporary or lasting - hardness. This leads us to a thorough consideration of the Court's budget since all cents should be spent effectively, on a way that contribute the most of the real functions of the Court.

Just in six month time we shall see each other in a location where we never met before, that is Kampala, the capitol of Uganda. To choose this city was one of the best decisions of the Assembly. Not only because it is a beautiful place, not because it is very challenging to have a conference in a so called situation country whose people suffered a lot from crimes well defined in the Statute of Rome, but for the fact that it is in the heart of Africa, at almost at the centre of a huge region where conflicts are followed by conflicts. Africa deserves more attention from the World and the review conference will be just the proper event to draw attention to the continent. Back in history millions of years ago Africa provided the cradle of the human mankind. In the present we must provide assistance to those nations whose social life is disrupted by an unprecedented wave of war crime, crimes against humanity and genocide. The Court should help to deliver justice those who become victims of these horrible crimes, and Africa will have many more millions of years in peace and prosperity.

WE truly hope that the *genus loci* – the spirit of the venue will help us to conclude our debate over the most important changes in the text of the Statute of Rome thus we shall finalize all the amendments required to the full fledged work of the Court.

Thank you again Mr Chairman for the time you provided us with and as I expected to conclude my statement I wish again express my sincere gratitude towards those whose work helped us to forward the principles of universal justice through universal jurisdiction.

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