



**INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**  
**EIGHTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES**

**GENERAL DEBATE**

**Statement by**

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**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
**Portuguese Republic**

**Representative**

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Mr President

Distinguished Delegates

It is with great honour that we address today the Eighth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute.

Please allow me to begin by expressing our gratitude

To you Mr. President

To the Bureau of the Assembly and its Secretariat

To the Court

To the Committee on Budget and Finance

To the Board of Directors

And last but not least, to the Working Groups in the Hague and in New York for having delivered the high quality papers that will enable us to carry on with fruitful discussions.

Portugal congratulates the Czech Republic and the Republic of Chile for their ratification of the Statute and warmly welcomes them as full members of this Assembly.

Portugal also welcomes the highly valuable contribution of the Coalition for the ICC. Its commitment and intense activities are effective steps to achieve International Criminal Justice.

Mr. President,

Portugal fully shares the views expressed by the Presidency of the European Union and consequently fully endorses the statement made by Sweden on its behalf.



The increasing number of the investigations and cases conducted under the responsibility of the ICC attests to the fact that the Court is successfully accomplishing its duties as established under the Rome Statute.

Together with the Court:

We are all striving to end impunity, to establish the rule of law and to promote peace and human rights.

We are all striving for strict compliance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

However, we must acknowledge that the increasing workload of the Court requires States Parties to fully cooperate in adequate and proper manner with it.  
Mr. President,

The successful conclusion of the Review Conference in Kampala next year, is a very demanding challenge we have ahead of us.

We commend the Republic of Uganda for hosting the Conference that will, without any doubts, become the historic landmark of the first revision of the Statute.

We must pay tribute to the work undertaken by the *Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression* and its outcome on the definition of the crime of aggression, as well as the conditions for the exercise of related jurisdiction. Their carefully drafted documents will be an important basis for our discussions next year.

Our task is complex and burdensome.



In order to succeed we should not accentuate differences but seek for understanding.

We must bridge the gaps and we may not forget that building compromises will give us the key for success.

A special emphasis on the technical discussions of the definition of the aggression crime and, in particular, on the conditions of the exercise of jurisdiction will be needed.

The successful outcome of these very discussions will pave the way to the global deal that will allow us to say "we have succeeded".

This is an historic opportunity and we are all under the duty to cooperate.

Throughout the future discussions Portugal shall, at all times, bare in mind the ultimate goals of this intense diplomatic and legal activity. To respect human rights and the rule of Law and thus helping to build a more peaceful world.

Mr. President,

I would like to solemnly assure you that Portugal will deploy all of its efforts to a successful outcome of the Kampala Conference. Please be also assured of our deep commitment to fighting against the most heinous crimes and to international peace and justice.

Thank you, Mr. President