



*Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia to the United Nations*

**Statement by**

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**Deputy Permanent Representative**

**ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES**

**9<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**December 6 – 10, 2010**

**Tuesday December 7, 2010**

Mr. President,

Saint Lucia has the honor of addressing this assembly in its capacity as a states party for the first time. In joining so many other Member States in acceding to the Rome Statute we are affirming our belief in the protection of the fundamental rights and dignity of the human person and the unique role of the International Criminal Court in upholding and protecting the most flagrant and abhorrent violations of that self respect.

The court exercises jurisdiction over persons for the most serious crimes of international concern. This includes ensuring punishment for grave crimes against humanity, which is vital for the maintenance of lasting peace and security. This jurisdiction cannot be exercised without the fullest co-operation of States Parties in keeping with their obligations under the statute. We therefore assure our fullest co-operation to the Court in the exercise of its mandate.

The significance of this institution must not be underestimated as it has now become abundantly clear that in some cases this court will become the main assurance so some citizens of this world of a fair and impartial result for the grave injustices they suffered.

The recent Review Conference of the Rome Statute noted the many achievements made in the few years of existence of the court. Its competence in carrying out its mandate with impartiality and independence has been recognized and applauded. As we look to the future we express our deep gratitude to you, Mr. President, for providing to us along with others the **Report on measures to increase clarity on the responsibility of different organs (ICC-ASP/9/34)**.

This kind of analysis is vital as it serves to protect and safeguard judicial and prosecutorial independence. This is particularly acute bearing in mind that the risk of division between the organs of the court and a lack of clarity are inherent in the Statute itself. While not compromising that independence we note the efforts made to enhance efficiency such as the institution of a management control system, a common understanding of services, and clarity on roles and responsibilities of organs in specific areas.

We are mindful that the two tribunals established by the Security Council namely the International tribunal on Rwanda and the International Tribunal on the former Yugoslavia are nearing completion of their work. The experience and rich jurisprudence of these tribunals will no doubt be useful to the ICC. This experience will become increasingly vital to the Court even as it develops a unique yet affirming body of jurisprudence to guide its work.

Saint Lucia takes this opportunity to thank fellow States Parties for their heartfelt expressions of support for our stance in joining the ICC. This Court has a significant mandate which itself has been abundantly debated therefore the success of its efforts can only be realized with the full co-operation of Member States. We therefore call on all signatories to this international collaboration to put their full weight behind ensuring its success for the betterment of our individual countries and international community.

I thank you