

Resolution ICC-ASP/8/Res.6

Adopted at the 8th plenary meeting, on 26 November 2009, by consensus

ICC-ASP/8/Res.6 Review Conference

The Assembly of States Parties,

Recalling previous resolutions and reports on the Review Conference, and in particular resolution ICC-ASP/7/Res.2,

Welcomes the Report of the Bureau on the Review Conference,¹

Recalling further the provisions on participation in the Review Conference already set out in the Rome Statute and in the draft Rules of Procedure for the Review Conference,²

Recalling that proposals for amendments to the Rome Statute to be considered at the Review Conference were to be discussed at the eighth session of the Assembly of States Parties, with a view to promoting consensus and a well prepared Review Conference,

Recalling the amendments proposed by States Parties in accordance with article 121, paragraph 1,³

Recalling article 124 of the Rome Statute, according to which the provisions of that article shall be reviewed at the Review Conference in order to enhance the work of the Court,

Recalling its decision to change the terms of reference of the trust fund established by paragraph 1 of resolution ICC-ASP/2/Res.6 so as to allow least developed countries and other developing States to draw on the fund, with a view to facilitating the participation of such States in the activities of the Review Conference,

Recalling further that the Review Conference shall be open to participation by civil society, including non-governmental organizations and representatives of victims' organizations, and that their participation is key to successful outreach for the Court and the Review Conference,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Working Group on the Review Conference,⁴ and submits that report for consideration by the Review Conference;
2. *Decides* that the Review Conference shall be held in Kampala, Uganda, from 31 May to 11 June 2010, for a period of ten working days;

¹ ICC-ASP/8/43 and Add.1.

² *Official Records of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Sixth session, 30 November-14 December 2007* (International Criminal Court publication, ICC-ASP/6/20), vol. I, part III, resolution ICC-ASP/6/Res.2, annex IV.

³ C.N.713.2009.TREATIES-4 of 29 October 2009 (Proposal of amendment by Norway to the Statute); C.N.723.2009.TREATIES-5 of 29 October 2009 (Proposal of amendments by the Netherlands to the Statute); C.N.725.2009.TREATIES-6 of 29 October 2009 (Proposal of amendment by Mexico to the Statute); C.N.727.2009.TREATIES-7 of 29 October 2009 (Proposal of amendment by Liechtenstein to the Statute); C.N.733.2009.TREATIES-8 of 29 October 2009 (Proposal of amendments by Belgium to the Statute); C.N.737.2009.TREATIES-9 of 29 October 2009 (Proposal of amendments by Trinidad and Tobago to the Statute); C.N.851.2009.TREATIES-10 of 30 November 2009 (Proposal of amendment by South Africa). See also ICC-ASP/8/43/Add.1.

⁴ *Official Records of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Eighth session, The Hague, 18-26 November 2009* (International Criminal Court publication, ICC-ASP/8/20), vol. I, annex II

3. *Decides* to forward the proposals for amendments contained in annexes I, II and III to this resolution to the Review Conference for its consideration;
4. *Decides* to establish a Working Group of the Assembly of States Parties for the purpose of considering, as from its ninth session, amendments to the Rome Statute proposed in accordance with article 121, paragraph 1, of the Statute at its eighth session, as well as any other possible amendments to the Rome Statute and to the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, with a view to identifying amendments to be adopted in accordance with the Rome Statute and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of States Parties;
5. *Decides* to forward the topics contained in annex IV to this resolution to the Review Conference for its consideration in the context of stocktaking of international criminal justice, taking into account the need to include aspects regarding universality, implementation, and lessons learned, in order to enhance the work of the Court;
6. *Decides* to mandate the Bureau to continue the preparations of the stocktaking of international criminal justice with a view to preparing the format of the discussion, preliminary background materials and proposals for outcomes for each topic identified in annex IV, for consideration at the resumed session;
7. *Requests* the Bureau to consider the issue of strengthening the enforcement of sentences and submitting a proposal for a decision to be considered at the Review Conference;
8. *Further requests* the Bureau to continue preparations for the Review Conference, including with regard to its scope and financial and legal implications, as well as practical and organizational issues;
9. *Decides* that the Bureau shall, inter alia, as part of the follow up to the Review Conference, keep under constant review the question of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Court, including by considering the possibility of establishing mechanisms within its New York and The Hague working groups;
10. *Requests* the Secretariat of the Assembly to report to the Bureau on the status of the discussions with a view to the expeditious conclusion, through the Court, of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Uganda and the Secretariat which ensures that the provisions of the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court are applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Review Conference, and which should also contain a time plan for preparatory steps;
11. *Requests* the Government of Uganda to continue consultations with the Coalition for the International Criminal Court on provisions regarding visa arrangements and other preconditions for full access of and participation by representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations, including victims' organizations, in the Conference and other events to be held in Uganda, and the planning of side-events in conjunction with the Review Conference, with a view to their inclusion in the Memorandum of Understanding referred to above;
12. *Calls upon* States, international organizations, individuals, corporations and other entities to contribute in a timely and voluntary manner to the Trust Fund, so as to allow the participation of least developed countries and other developing States in the Review Conference.

Annex I

Draft amendment to article 124 of the Rome Statute

*[Article 124 of the Statute is deleted]*¹

Annex II

Liechtenstein: Proposals for a provision on aggression*

The Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor, in his capacity as former Chairman of the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression, to refer to article 121, paragraph 1 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. In accordance with that provision, the proposed amendment on aggression elaborated by the Special Working Group is herewith submitted for circulation to all States.

The Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

Proposals for a provision on aggression elaborated by the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression

Draft resolution

(to be adopted by the Review Conference)

The Review Conference,

(insert preambular paragraphs)

1. *Decides* to adopt the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (hereinafter: “the Statute”) contained in the annex to the present resolution, which are subject to ratification or acceptance and shall enter into force in accordance with article 121, paragraph [4 / 5] of the Statute;

(add further operative paragraphs as needed)

¹ No amendment would be necessary if article 124 is retained.

* Previously issued as United Nations depositary notification C.N.727.2009.TREATIES-7, dated 29 October 2009.

Appendix

Draft amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the Crime of Aggression

1. *Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Statute is deleted.*
2. *The following text is inserted after article 8 of the Statute:*

Article 8 bis **Crime of aggression**

1. For the purpose of this Statute, “crime of aggression” means the planning, preparation, initiation or execution, by a person in a position effectively to exercise control over or to direct the political or military action of a State, of an act of aggression which, by its character, gravity and scale, constitutes a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. For the purpose of paragraph 1, “act of aggression” means the use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations. Any of the following acts, regardless of a declaration of war, shall, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, qualify as an act of aggression:
 - (a) The invasion or attack by the armed forces of a State of the territory of another State, or any military occupation, however temporary, resulting from such invasion or attack, or any annexation by the use of force of the territory of another State or part thereof;
 - (b) Bombardment by the armed forces of a State against the territory of another State or the use of any weapons by a State against the territory of another State;
 - (c) The blockade of the ports or coasts of a State by the armed forces of another State;
 - (d) An attack by the armed forces of a State on the land, sea or air forces, or marine and air fleets of another State;
 - (e) The use of armed forces of one State which are within the territory of another State with the agreement of the receiving State, in contravention of the conditions provided for in the agreement or any extension of their presence in such territory beyond the termination of the agreement;
 - (f) The action of a State in allowing its territory, which it has placed at the disposal of another State, to be used by that other State for perpetrating an act of aggression against a third State;
 - (g) The sending by or on behalf of a State of armed bands, groups, irregulars or mercenaries, which carry out acts of armed force against another State of such gravity as to amount to the acts listed above, or its substantial involvement therein.

3. *The following text is inserted after article 15 of the Statute:*

Article 15 bis

Exercise of jurisdiction over the crime of aggression

1. The Court may exercise jurisdiction over the crime of aggression in accordance with article 13, subject to the provisions of this article.

2. Where the Prosecutor concludes that there is a reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation in respect of a crime of aggression, he or she shall first ascertain whether the Security Council has made a determination of an act of aggression committed by the State concerned. The Prosecutor shall notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the situation before the Court, including any relevant information and documents.

3. Where the Security Council has made such a determination, the Prosecutor may proceed with the investigation in respect of a crime of aggression.

4. **(Alternative 1)** In the absence of such a determination, the Prosecutor may not proceed with the investigation in respect of a crime of aggression,

Option 1 – end the paragraph here.

Option 2 – add: unless the Security Council has, in a resolution adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, requested the Prosecutor to proceed with the investigation in respect of a crime of aggression.

4. **(Alternative 2)** Where no such determination is made within [6] months after the date of notification, the Prosecutor may proceed with the investigation in respect of a crime of aggression,

Option 1 – end the paragraph here.

Option 2 – add: provided that the Pre-Trial Chamber has authorized the commencement of the investigation in respect of a crime of aggression in accordance with the procedure contained in article 15;

Option 3 – add: provided that the General Assembly has determined that an act of aggression has been committed by the State referred to in article 8 bis;

Option 4 – add: provided that the International Court of Justice has determined that an act of aggression has been committed by the State referred to in article 8 bis.

5. A determination of an act of aggression by an organ outside the Court shall be without prejudice to the Court's own findings under this Statute.

6. This article is without prejudice to the provisions relating to the exercise of jurisdiction with respect to other crimes referred to in article 5.

4. *The following text is inserted after article 25, paragraph 3 of the Statute:*

3 bis. In respect of the crime of aggression, the provisions of this article shall apply only to persons in a position effectively to exercise control over or to direct the political or military action of a State.

5. *The first sentence of article 9, paragraph 1 of the Statute is replaced by the following sentence:*
 1. Elements of Crimes shall assist the Court in the interpretation and application of articles 6, 7, 8 and 8 bis.
6. *The chapeau of article 20, paragraph 3, of the Statute is replaced by the following paragraph; the rest of the paragraph remains unchanged:*
 3. No person who has been tried by another court for conduct also proscribed under article 6, 7, 8 or 8 bis shall be tried by the Court with respect to the same conduct unless the proceedings in the other court:

Appendix

Draft Elements of Crimes*

Article 8 bis Crime of aggression

Introduction

1. It is understood that any of the acts referred to in article 8 bis, paragraph 2, qualify as an act of aggression.
2. There is no requirement to prove that the perpetrator has made a legal evaluation as to whether the use of armed force was inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations.
3. The term “manifest” is an objective qualification.
4. There is no requirement to prove that the perpetrator has made a legal evaluation as to the “manifest” nature of the violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

Elements

1. The perpetrator planned, prepared, initiated or executed an act of aggression.
2. The perpetrator was a person⁶ in a position effectively to exercise control over or to direct the political or military action of the State which committed the act of aggression.
3. The act of aggression – the use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations – was committed.
4. The perpetrator was aware of the factual circumstances that established that such a use of armed force was inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations.
5. The act of aggression, by its character, gravity and scale, constituted a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations.
6. The perpetrator was aware of the factual circumstances that established such a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

* Previously issued as ICC-ASP/8/INF.2, annex I.

⁶ With respect to an act of aggression, more than one person may be in a position that meets these criteria.

Annex III

Belgium: Proposal of amendment

Proposed by Austria, Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cyprus, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, Romania, Samoa, Slovenia and Switzerland

Add to article 8, paragraph 2, e), the following: «xvii) Employing poison or poisoned weapons;

xviii) Employing asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and all analogous liquids, materials or devices;

xix) Employing bullets which expand or flatten easily in the human body, such as bullets with a hard envelope which does not entirely cover the core or is pierced with incisions.»

Justification

The use of the weapons listed in this draft amendment is already incriminated by article 8, paragraph 2, b), xvii) to xix) of the Statute in case of an international armed conflict. This amendment extends the jurisdiction of the Court for these crimes in case of an armed conflict not of an international character (article 8, paragraph 2, e).

Annex IV

Topics for stocktaking

- a) Complementarity
 - b) Cooperation
 - c) The impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and affected communities
 - d) Peace and justice
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