



**GREECE**

**Review Conference  
of  
the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court  
Kampala, 31 May-11 June 2010**

**General Debate**

**Statement by**

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*Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

It is a great honor and a great pleasure to find ourselves here in the heart of Africa, in beautiful Uganda at this auspicious 12<sup>th</sup> year after the Rome Conference which adopted the Rome Statute, thus giving birth to a new institution which the world needed and hoped for.

Mr. President,

First of all, I want to align myself with the statement made by the Spanish Presidency of the EU regarding this Conference. I would just like to add some thoughts on our side concerning the work of the Conference. It is without doubt that there is a lot to be done here and now. The agenda is quite eloquent in itself.

Stocktaking is, of course, a constant requisite in the never-ending process of evaluating, promoting, strengthening and looking into the future of the ICC.

Stone by stone, step by step we are building the new institution on the basis of what has so far been identified as needing to be changed or as a lacuna to be filled.

Our agenda also contains proposals for amendment of the Rome Statute, including some which constitute our dowry from the Rome Conference and, indeed, the Statute itself. In connection with the latter, I am referring, of course, to the crime of aggression, which the Assembly of States Parties has ardently worked on through its very active Working Group, open to all, as well as through the intersessional meetings, again open to all, which were organized by friends of the Court, to whom we are heavily indebted.

In connection with this issue, we are here to negotiate and do so with our hearts and minds. There are, to be sure, solutions to be found if there is genuine will to do so. A spirit of compromise is necessary to achieve a conclusion which would do justice to our vision of the Court.

Mr. President,

We should not forget that we are not operating in splendid isolation. We are here to listen to the needs, the aspirations and the will of a world that continues to be ridden with atrocities and tragedies. The abhorrent events yesterday on the high seas of the Mediterranean, which we deeply deplore and which involved also ships flying the Greek flag and Greek citizens, are a dire reminder of this, it seems, inescapable reality.

Mr. President,

We should not, however, leave this reality bend our determination. The Greek delegation, in full cognizance of the difficulties and obstacles, is ready to work closely with all other delegations, so that an even stronger International Criminal Court may be achieved. We strongly believe that we can and owe it to ourselves and the world community to try our best to make this possible.

Thank you Mr. President

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