

General Debate

Review Conference of the International Criminal Court

Kampala, Uganda, 31 May 2010

Statement of the Republic of The Gambia by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Mr Edward Anthony Gomez

The President of the Assembly of States Parties

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

May I first of all take this opportunity to thank our hosts, the Government and People of the Republic of Uganda, for the warm and generous hospitality since our arrival.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Working Group of the Review Conference for the good work in preparation for the conference.

We would also like to extend warm and sincere greetings from the President of the Republic of The Gambia, Sheikh Professor Dr. Alhaji Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh, to his counterpart, His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, and all participants of the Review Conference here in Uganda.

Mr. President, the Gambian delegation would like to align itself with the position of the African Group, as divulged by the Honourable Minister of Justice of the Republic of Kenya

The Republic of The Gambia fully recognises and is sincerely committed to the defence of human rights in general, and in particular supports the aims and aspirations of the ICC, as manifested by our being among the first States to appreciate the importance of the Rome Statute, and accordingly ratified it. We also continue to participate fully and meaningfully in the activities of the ICC at all times, and ensure that our financial dues are promptly settled, so as to enhance the efficient functioning of the ICC.

The Gambia's democratic credentials are made manifest by the fact that it is hosting the headquarters of the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights, since the inception of that noble institution.

Mr. President, may we take this opportunity to extend our sincere and profound congratulations to His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, and the peoples of this beautiful and hospitable country, for taking the noble initiative of not only ratifying but also domesticating the Rome Statute. It is our fervent belief that the Republic of The Gambia and indeed so many other countries shall soon follow this noble and worthwhile example. It is all, I believe, in the noble quest of securing and protecting mankind from the menace of the evil scourge of wicked

men of the vulgar sort, such as, and if I may exemplify, the likes of Paul Put and Joseph Kony, just to name a few.

We also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Bangladesh for becoming the 111<sup>th</sup> States Party to ratify the Rome Statute

We are also fully in support of the noble ideal of zero tolerance to impunity, especially viewed from the perspective that evil men succeed only when good men do or say nothing.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are all noble men and women of good intention and spirit, therefore I respectfully urge that all of us present here today representing our esteemed countries, rise up in a relentless crusade against impunity and all its ugly and evil consequences. I salute you all and pray that God Almighty will continue to give us the courage and determination to achieve our noble objectives. I am sure, each and every one of you here present, shall in time, go down in history as having left footprints on the golden sands of time. God Bless you all, and I thank you for your kind attention.