

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HER EXCELLENCY MRS BETTY  
MOULD-IDDRISU, ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF  
JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA AT THE FIRST REVIEW  
CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT HELD AT THE  
MUNYONYO COMMONWEALTH RESORT, KAMPALA, 31 MAY-11  
JUNE 2010**

**Mr President**

**On behalf of the Ghana Delegation I congratulate you on your  
presidency of this historic review conference. We also wish to  
acknowledge your immense contributions at sessions preceding  
this conference and assure you that we have every confidence  
in your abilities to ensure an outcome that will reflect not only  
the letter of the Rome Statute but also capture the spirit of the  
African and indeed the global will to end impunity. We wish you  
every success. My delegation also wishes to express our  
gratitude to the Government and people of Uganda for the  
warm hospitality and excellent facilities which have been**

**provided to facilitate the success of our endeavours on this occasion.**

**We are grateful to the UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-Moon for his inspiring statement, and continuous commitment to the causes enshrined in the Rome Statute. My delegation acknowledges also the presence of the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, under whose leadership the Rome Statute saw the light of day in July 1998. His presence at this meeting strengthens our resolve to ensure that the flame lit in Rome in 1998 is not dimmed as a result of inactivity or complacency.**

**Mr President**

**We have come a long way since the signing of the Rome Treaty in 1998 and the consequent establishment of the International Criminal Court in 2002. The success so far attained could not have been possible without unrelenting efforts of individuals, groups, civil society and also the President and officials of the court, who have dedicated themselves to the cause of international criminal justice and to the fight against impunity. The Ghana delegation is deeply grateful to them; we**

**applaud their contributions and re-dedicate ourselves to the noble ideals for which they have shown such great commitment.**

**Mr President,**

**On this historic occasion, I wish to re-affirm my countries' resolve to deepen the model of justice established by the Rome Statute, even as we continue in our efforts to assiduously work towards further enhancing the efficiency and transparency of the regime established by the Rome Statute, It is our hope that states parties, will at this meeting, critically examine the possibility of establishing a framework within which institutional inadequacies hampering the capacity of Least Developed States to fully discharge their obligations to cooperate as enshrined in the Statute, will be addressed.**

**Mr President,**

**It is significant that one of the very important issues to be addressed at this meeting amongst others relates to the crime**

**of Aggression. Ghana will join consensus with states parties on any definition or formulation which ensures that the Court will not become an object of political intrigue and manipulation. In all situations, my delegation will be guided by the principle that the Court be independent, and be capable of fulfilling its mandate independently through the application of internationally accepted judicial standards. Undoubtedly, the issue of a definition for the crime of Aggression will generate varied responses as was demonstrated in the working group on the subject. Having been an active member of the special committee on the definition of the crime of Aggression in the 1960's, Ghana is acutely aware that any hesitation or lack of will on this important issue, will be an irreparable dent on the hard work and contribution on all those who have toiled to punish perpetrators of this heinous crime since the end of the second world war.**

**Mr President,**

**The International community should, if it fails to define Aggression on the basis of consensus, be leaving open a window**

**through which brazen impunity will be perpetrated to make a mockery of all that the Rome Statute stands for.**

**Mr President,**

**The need to promote universality of the Rome Statute is an objective to which my delegation is deeply committed thus consequently; we will take a critical look at any existing provision which has the potential of detracting from the notion of universal acceptability of the Rome Statute. We will work with States parties and other stake-holders to ensure that the notion of universality is not compromised. No geographical locale must end up being regarded as a safe haven for perpetrators of impunity. My delegation is also open to exploring other viable alternatives which do not compromise the core objectives of universal acceptance of the local regime established by the Rome Statute.**

**States Parties at this conference, Mr President, have a historic opportunity to consolidate and deepen the fight against impunity exemplified by the passage of the Rome Statute**

**whose foundation was laid in Rome twelve years ago, to enable it to become a cornerstone of International Criminal Justice.**

**The legal and political challenges which will be highlighted in the course of our deliberations should strengthen our resolve to find creative solutions without compromising core values.**

**Our responsibilities as States Parties as we go about this task must be grounded in mutual responsibility and mutual respect for each others' position; this will provide not only validity for our efforts but also further consolidate the moral base from which the fight against impunity draws its strength.**

**Finally, Mr President, while once again expressing gratitude to the Government and people of Uganda, I wish to also convey sincere appreciation to the working groups in New York and The Hague, for the tremendous contributions and varying inputs which will greatly enhance our deliberations at this meeting.**

**In the same vein, I wish to again re-affirm Ghana's commitment to fulfil its obligations under the Rome Statute**

**and to also bring the activities of the Court established by the Statute into public consciousness, whilst ensuring that its Independence is not compromised.**

**Thank you, Mr President.**