



**Statement by the Argentine Delegation to the Seventh Session of the  
Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute  
for the International Criminal Court, The Hague, November 15, 2008**

Mr. President:

First of all, allow me to express the Argentine delegation's satisfaction in seeing you in charge of this Assembly of the States Parties, to congratulate you and wish you all the best in the fulfillment of your functions. The Argentine delegation wishes to start by reaffirming its full commitment to the promotion and the protection of human rights and the end of impunity. We are convinced that the International Criminal Court fulfills a fundamental role in the achievement of these objectives. A permanent international justice not only reassures the criminal persecution of those who have committed the gravest international crimes, but it also has a deterrent effect on the perpetration of such crimes. In this way, the Court necessarily contributes to reinforcing justice and the rule of law, as well as to preserving peace and international security.

The Argentine Republic has always supported the establishment of an International Criminal Court and celebrates this being a reality today. The investigations have shown that the criminal justice system conceived by the States at the Rome Conference is functioning well. This is why the States should strive for the reinforcement and the consolidation of the Court's work. The high responsibilities that have been entrusted to the Court can only be fulfilled with the support and cooperation of the international community. Therefore, we call upon States to respond satisfactorily to the request for detention of persons and judicial assistance formulated by the Court.

In this regard, the Argentine Republic wants to emphasize the importance that States count with internal regulations that permit the effective fulfillment of the obligations derived from the Rome Statute, among them those referring to cooperation with the Court. Since January 2007, Law 26.200 on the Implementation of the Rome Statute has been in force in the Argentine Republic.

We consider of great importance that the States exchange ideas and experiences on the national implementation of the Rome Statute. On the basis of our regulatory experience, we would like to make use of the opportunity to offer our cooperation to those countries do not yet have internal legislation in place on the matter and may be in need of technical assistance.

Since July 2002, when the Rome Statute came into effect, great steps have been taken to turn into a reality what in the past had not been more than the idealist dream of having an international system of criminal responsibility for the

perpetrators of crimes against international law. Up until now, the Prosecutor of the Court has begun investigations on four particular situations, which have led him to present charges against about ten persons for the commission of horrendous crimes, which not too long ago, could have remained unpunished. In view of the message they convey to present-day and future perpetrators of international crimes, we must underline the importance of these initial investigations, that is, that impunity will not be tolerated by the international community in any form and a safe shelter to escape of the actions of justice does not exist.

Mr. President:

I would not like to let this opportunity pass without referring to the upcoming Review Conference. As regards to its substantive aspects of the Conference, the Argentine delegation wishes to reiterate its position in favor of avoiding the introduction of amendments that would not achieve true consensus amongst States Parties. We believe that it would not be recommendable to seek to amend the crimes already typified in Articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Statute, thereby re-opening debates which took place in Rome. This would conspire against the necessary juridical security, which must characterize criminal international law. Therefore and in accordance to the Conference of Rome Resolution, it would seem more prudent for the Review Conference to concentrate on the definition of the crime of aggression or of crimes against international law whose legal definitions are yet to be determined.

In reference to the procedural and logistic aspects of the Conference, firstly, we would like to underline the need for civil society to have the possibility to actively participate in the Conference so that it may offer its contributions. Secondly, we would like to express our support to the Bureau and to the focal point for the Review Conference in all that may contribute to the organization of the event.

Mr. President:

As always, we are prepared to work constructively with the other delegations to achieve our central objective, which in no other than the achievement of the universality of the Rome Statute, the consolidation of its institutions and the end of impunity.

Thank you very much