

Statement by Mr. Hwang Seung-Hyun
Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea
to the Seventh Session of Assembly of States Parties to the ICC
15 November 2008
The Hague

Mr. President,

1. At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your chairing the Assembly for the first time since you were elected as President last year. Under your able guidance already demonstrated in the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression, I believe that this year's session will be another success and make substantial progress in resolving the various issues before us.

2. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to Judge Kirsch and the other Judges, Prosecutor Ocampo, and the Court staff for their valuable devotion and ongoing efforts to make the Court fully operational. And I also thank the Dutch government for its excellent role as the host country of this meeting.

Mr. President,

3. First of all, I would like to congratulate the 10th anniversary of adopting the Rome Statute this year. My delegation is pleased to witness the remarkable and substantial progress the Court has made over this period. In particular, this year's achievements have been extremely positive and

impressive. These achievements have included the first trial under the Statute and demonstrations of willingness by States Parties to cooperate with the Court in various areas.

4. Since the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998, the number of States Parties to the Statute has increased rapidly, reaching a total of 108 members with the accession of the Cook Islands, Madagascar, and Suriname this year. This is very encouraging development and demonstrates these State Parties' resolve to wage a war against the world's most atrocious crimes. However, we should maintain our efforts towards achieving the universal membership of the Court. We hope that the Court, as well as States Parties, will provide assistance to non-member States in order to prepare them for their accession to the Rome Statute.

5. I also welcome the considerable progress the Court has made this year as a functional judicial institution. Two suspects were arrested and surrendered to the Court by virtue of cooperation from State Parties, and relevant pre-trial activities are taking place. In particular, my delegation is pleased by the fact that first historic trial activities and Appeal Chamber's activities on the former's decision were conducted. I believe that the judicial activities of the Court will serve as a deterrent to future atrocities.

Mr. President,

6. In order to attain the Rome Statute's aim to end impunity of the gravest international crimes and to guarantee the enforcement of international justice through the judicial activities of the ICC, States should provide the Court with the financial, logistical, political, and legal support the Court needs to perform its work. In this regard, States Parties should also ensure that assessed

contributions are paid in full and on time. Voluntary contributions are also encouraged as an important source of revenue. In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that my government will contribute to the "Trust Fund for Victims" next year, with a view to help realize judicial justice through the reparation and rehabilitation of victims.

Mr. President,

7. In terms of the agenda of this meeting, my delegation is of the view that the budget size should be sufficient enough to support the Court's activities. However, there are some points to consider in the draft budget for 2009, which proposes a 16 percent increase compared to that of year 2008. More discussion should be made to rationalize and streamline the budget during this session. Regarding crime of aggression, we have moved forward through the meetings we have had so far. I believe that we can make substantial progress at the current session, so that we reach the complete definition of the crime of aggression and conditions of jurisdiction over the crime at the Review Conference in 2010. My delegation commits itself to contributing to such work by seeking solutions consistent with each and every clause of, and also consistent with the full context and spirit of, the Rome Statute and the United Nations Charter.

8. The Republic of Korea has been an enthusiastic supporter of the ICC since its inception, and remains faithful to its commitment to and support for the work of the Court in all areas. In order to facilitate the Court's activities and effective implementation of the Statute, we ratified the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC in 2006, and the national legislation implementing the Rome Statute is currently in force. The Republic of Korea will continue to

fulfil its part as a sincere supporter of the ICC by sharing the experience of implementing the Rome Statute and by actively engaging in outreach and advocacy efforts of the ICC.

Mr. President,

9. I sincerely hope that the ICC will continue to work diligently toward the eradication of impunity and enhance its reputation as the only permanent international criminal court in the world. In closing, Mr. President, the Republic of Korea once again reaffirms its unswerving commitment to support the ICC in achieving its noble goals.

Thank you.