

Statement of the Head of the Delegation of

**HUNGARY**

H.E. Ambassador G. Szentiványi

delivered during the general debate of the  
5th Session of the Assembly of States Parties

23 November 2006

Thank you Mr. President,

First of all, let me express my sincere gratitude for your excellent guidance of our work.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to me to address you here on the occasion of the 5th Assembly of States Parties of the Rome Statute. The Republic of Hungary has warmly welcomed the decision of the Bureau to devote two days of this session of the ASP to general debate. I would like to use this opportunity to reiterate my Government's commitment to furthering the goals of the Rome Statute. In this endeavour, allow me to inform you briefly on past, recent and future measures of my country to implement the Statute, and then to share with you some words on the steps we have taken and those that we contemplate taking to assist the work of the Court.

Hungary has enacted legislation for the implementation of the Rome Statute. The Parliament has recently adopted an Act, which aims at the adjustment of national legislation on immunity of certain state officials to the Rome Statute. Hungary has also become a party to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Court, which entered into force for Hungary on the 21st of April 2006. Hungary considers the implementation of the Statute and the Agreement a priority, and will continue to make all efforts necessary in order to fully comply with these two instruments.

One of the most important lessons we have learned so far is that the Court can effectively function only with the assistance of the States Parties. In that context again we may consider the universality of the Statute as the most

important factor. The more states become parties the more assistance can be provided. It has already been stated many times, but we still see the need to emphasize it again that the Court doesn't possess an enforcement body, and hence is in the hands of the States Parties and other international players when it comes to arrests, implementation of procedural decisions and of course, implementation of its judgments. We need to make sure that the measures of assistance described in Part 9 of the Statute are implemented with diligence and speed, and that following a trial ending in final prison sentence, there will be States ready to accept the execution of sentences. Hungary on its part has been approached recently by the Court to help identify information sources that could possibly contribute to the success of investigations. Hungary took note of this request and is now providing information to the Office of the Prosecutor. Besides that, Hungary actively examines the possibility of concluding cooperation agreements with the Court on witness relocation and implementation of sentences.

The community of the States Parties to the Rome Statute is growing in number, which makes the goal of universality of the Rome Statute attainable in the not too distant future. It is however an imbalanced process as some regions of the world remain underrepresented. Against all odds the sheer number of member states, which has now reached a three-digit number makes us carefully optimistic. Hungary encourages this expansion, and welcomes the recent news from signatory states on their intention to ratify the Statute. The news on the accession of Japan is very encouraging. We hope that a compromise on the budgetary contribution will be reached, paving the way for a timely ratification by Japan, and that in turn, would encourage other Asian countries to consider joining.

Hungary shares the view of the States Parties that while the Court is still in its phase of development, it is inevitable that its budget increases. At the same time the Assembly needs to make sure that it only provides funding for activities and positions that are really necessary.

The States Parties have established bodies that prepare the decisions of the Assembly, the Bureau and the Committee of Budget and Finance, which all have made an excellent work so far. At the same time, it has become evident that there can be issues where decisions with far-reaching consequences need to be made in the period between two sessions of the ASP. The question of permanent premises is such an issue. It is our common task now to complement the decision-making process with regard to the permanent premises to ensure that decisions can be taken in due course.

Time is flying as the old saying goes and after an amazingly short period of entering into force and only a couple of years of application, the Statute is to be amended with a new set of rules on the crime of aggression. Drafting of these provisions is an intellectually challenging task and the process of drafting them may be promising but time consuming. The review conference is quickly approaching, so we cannot over emphasize the importance of the upcoming resumed session of the ASP next January that may bring about progress in that particular field.

The delegation of Hungary fully supports the work of this Assembly, its thorough debates and forward-looking resolutions.

Thank you for your attention.