



UGANDA

Permanent Mission of Uganda
to the United Nations
New York

Tel: (212) 949-0110
Fax: (212) 687-4517

STATEMENT BY
HON. FREDRICK RUHINDI, DEPUTY ATTORNEY
GENERAL/MINISTER OF STATE FOR JUSTICE AND
CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA,
AT THE
9TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT –
6TH DECEMBER 2010, NEW YORK

Please Check Against Delivery

New York, December 6th 2010

Mr. President,

I am very grateful for this opportunity to, once again, address the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Mr. President,

This is the first session of the Assembly of States Parties since the successful conclusion of the Review Conference in Kampala in June this year. I take this opportunity to once again thank the Assembly for accepting our country's offer to host the Review Conference. It is our sincere hope that your stay in Kampala was both comfortable and memorable.

We are confident that the Kampala Declaration will go a long way in strengthening the Court and we are proud to be associated with this great milestone.

Mr. President,

It is with great pleasure to note that the ICC continues to make steady progress towards universality. Accordingly, we congratulate the Republic of Moldova upon its ratification of the Rome Statute which brings the number of States Parties to 114.

Mr. President,

Allow me to reiterate that Uganda remains steadfast in its commitment to the ICC. Following the enactment of the International Criminal Court Act early this year, the Rome Statute is now an integral part of our legal system. Pursuant to the principle of complementarity, the War Crimes Division of the High Court will soon start the first case; *Uganda v. Thomas Kwoyelo*. As we embark on this process, we intend to work very closely with the international community as well the relevant organs of ICC in order to enhance our national standards. We have already received assistance in form of training for our judges, prosecutors and investigators and we are hoping that very soon, defence counsel will also receive training to enhance their capacity in international criminal justice.

Since the present case and others are linked to the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda, we have requested for cooperation with the ICC Prosecutor on sharing of evidence, analysis and appearance of witnesses before our War Crimes Division of the High Court. Last month the Prosecutor met our team headed by the Director of Public Prosecutions in The Hague and is positively responding to our request. We look forward to continued cooperation with the ICC and other partners in this regard.

Mr. President,

The Government of Uganda regrets that almost 5 years after the ICC indicted Joseph Kony and the others, not much progress has been registered by way of getting the fugitives before the Court. Instead, Joseph Kony and his criminal outfit continue to cause death and destruction in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and the Central African Republic with impunity. The fact that these criminals remain at large is a serious challenge to the Court. Frankly, it tests our people's belief in the Court and in our readiness to meet our obligation to cooperate. My delegation earnestly calls upon the international community to ensure that the fugitives are brought to justice.

Mr. President,

Uganda is committed to the institutional development of the Court. We, therefore, support the draft omnibus resolution, especially the elements touching on recruitment of personnel in charge of victims and witnesses. My delegation will continue to advocate appropriate treatment of victims and witnesses, the primary stakeholders in the processes of the Court, whenever they are required to be in The Hague. Every effort must be made to ensure that the staff members assigned to the victims and witnesses have the appropriate appreciation of their cultural sensitivities.

Mr. President,

My delegation looks forward to a successful 9th session of the Assembly of States Parties.

I thank you.