

UNASUR DECLARATION

On the occasion of the International Criminal Justice Day, celebrated on July 17, the States Parties of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), taking into consideration that its constitutive treaty enshrines the principle of unrestricted respect for universal, indivisible and interdependent human rights as one of the essential conditions for building a common future of peace, economic and social prosperity and development of the peoples:

1. Recall that all UNASUR Member States are Parties to the Rome Statute and reiterate their belief that impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole goes against its fundamental values and principles, and reiterate their firm commitment to put an end to such impunity.
2. Underline the contribution that, following the path initiated by other international criminal tribunals, such as the ICTY and ICTR, the ICC is making to the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern.
3. Recognize that the Court, since its inception, has become the backbone of the permanent criminal justice system of the international community as a whole, and reiterate their firm commitment to continue to actively work for further strengthening of the Court and its organs.
4. Welcome the agreements for cooperation with the Court, including on the execution of sentences, that States Parties to the Statute, including Members of UNASUR have concluded with the Court.
5. Recognizing the challenges for ensuring those responsible of the most heinous crimes face justice, urge all States, in particular States Parties to the Rome Statute, to cooperate with the Court and fulfill their obligations under the Rome Statute. Justice for those crimes reflects the commitment of the international community towards the victims and future generations, in line with the efforts to avoid recurrence of such crimes. In conformity with the adherence of the South American countries to the full respect for human rights,

reiterate their firm commitment to continue deploying efforts to ensure effective cooperation with the ICC.

6. Recall the success of the First Review Conference of the Rome Statute (Kampala, 2010) and the role played by UNASUR countries, in line with the commitment expressed by the Heads of State and Government of UNASUR countries in the Declaration adopted 4 May 2010. In this regard, take note of the fact that 30 States Parties have ratified the Kampala amendment on the crime of aggression, reaffirm their commitment to ratify the Kampala amendments and to work towards the activation of the jurisdiction of the Court regarding the crime of aggression in 2017.

7. Urge States Parties to the Rome Statute that have not yet done so to adopt domestic legislation to implement obligations emanating from the Rome Statute. We also urge them, in the view of the principle of complementarity and their primary responsibility in accordance with the Rome Statute of exercising jurisdiction, to include the crimes of the Rome Statute as punishable crimes under their domestic laws, to establish jurisdiction for these crimes, and to ensure effective enforcement of those laws.

8. Invite States that are not yet Parties to the Rome Statute to ratify or accede to it as soon as possible so as to contribute to the effectiveness and universality of the Rome Statute.

9. Reiterate on this occasion their strong support to the International Criminal Court.

17 July 2016.