

**International Criminal Court**  
**Review Conference of the Rome Statute**  
**Kampala, 31 May – 11 June 2010**

Statement by  
Under-Secretary of State  
Mr. Jaakko Laajava  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Kampala, 31 May 2010



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

## Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court General Debate

Statement by H.E. Jaakko Laajava  
Under-Secretary of State  
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Mr. President, Members of the Review Conference,

It is an honour to address this distinguished audience on behalf of the Government of Finland. We fully associate ourselves with the statement by the Spanish Presidency of the European Union.

Let me begin by extending compliments to the host country, Uganda. The hospitality and warmth that we have experienced here is profound. The role of Uganda as the host of this Conference reflects the commitment of African states to the Rome Statute.

I would also like to thank all the organizers, including the President of the Assembly of States Parties, the Bureau and the Secretariat as well as all the focal points and facilitators for their tireless efforts to make this Review Conference successful. We are also grateful to civil society for its contributions.

Mr. President,

We are here to honour the historical commitment made twelve years ago, and to recapitulate the progress achieved since Rome. For Finland, as a firm supporter of the International Criminal Court, it is gratifying indeed to witness the way to a world where impunity is no longer an acceptable option.

It is also satisfying to note that the International Criminal Court has matured into a fully operational, independent judicial institution whose membership continues to increase. It is particularly encouraging that also states still outside the Statute have demonstrated a new kind of willingness to co-operate with the Court. We invite all states to become parties to the Statute as soon as possible.

The road to this Review Conference has not been without obstacles and challenges. As any evolving institution, the Court has faced, and will face testing situations. The challenges will strengthen our resolve on which we have built the Court.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For Finland the initial reason for convening the Review Conference remains topical. Since 1998 constructive work has been done on the crime of aggression. This inclusive and transparent process has accomplished proposals for the definition of the crime of aggression, as well as for the conditions under which the International Criminal Court is to exercise its jurisdiction with regard to this crime.



Finland has consistently supported the inclusion of the crime of aggression in the Rome Statute. We are encouraged by the progress so far, and look forward to thorough discussions in a spirit of commitment and compromise.

Mr. President, Fellow delegates,

Co-operation with the Court is the key to its success. Outstanding arrest warrants are a particular challenge to both the Court and Member States. We recognize that co-operation with the Court is not an easy task. As this issue is of vital importance in implementing accountability in practice, we all should today unequivocally commit to assist the Court with all our ability.

The need to co-operate extends far beyond the execution of arrest warrants issued by the Court. In this vein, Finland is pleased to announce that we will conclude an Agreement on the Enforcement of Sentences with the Court during this Review Conference. We encourage broader participation of States in the enforcement of sentences in all regions.

The principle of complementarity is the very cornerstone of the Rome Statute. Therefore, the readiness of states to meet their obligations under the Statute needs to be enhanced. The role of international organizations and civil society in advancing capacity-building efforts is essential. Finland appreciates the efforts of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court in assisting states to become parties to the Rome Statute, and in helping them to meet their obligations. Finland will assist states in the field of complementarity by funding the Coalition's capacity-building work in Africa.

We also enhance co-operation with the ICC and complementarity through the Justice Rapid Response initiative. This multilateral stand-by facility has trained criminal justice professionals for international investigations, to be available for responding to requests for assistance.

Mr. President,

In the stocktaking of international criminal justice we have focused a lot of attention on the impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and affected communities. We wish to thank all our partners, and especially our co-focal point Chile, for an excellent and most inspiring co-operation in preparing the consideration of this theme on Wednesday. We look forward to a productive dialogue. Victims' and their communities' voices should be heard and will be heard during this Review Conference. We wish that the efforts made here will generate a renewed commitment and that the perspectives of victims and affected communities will be carried on to our future discussions and decisions.

We pledge to continue our financial support to the work of the ICC Trust Fund for Victims, which gives a great contribution in strengthening the Rome Statute system. We do encourage other states to make similar donations.

Thank you.

