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**International Criminal Court: Amnesty International urges states taking part in the Review Conference to provide the Court with their full co-operation**

*Amnesty International's statement to the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Kampala (Uganda), 31 May – 11 June 2010*

Thank you Mr. Chair.

Amnesty International would like to thank the Bureau and the Conference for the opportunity of addressing you all today.

Amnesty International has long supported the establishment of the International Criminal Court. We have lobbied for the Court to be a fair, effective and independent institution. Since the Rome Conference in July 1998, Amnesty International has been campaigning for all states to ratify the Rome Statute and for all organs of the Court to keep the promise of justice to victims of crimes under international law. Today, we fully appreciate the historical character of this Conference.

Mr. Chair, ladies and gentlemen,

The fight against impunity, both at the national and at the international level, requires strong political commitment and concrete action. Amnesty International takes note of the many statements in support of the Court and of

international criminal justice made by states delegations during this general debate. Promises of support for the work of the Court are important, but they are not enough. **Amnesty International urges all states taking part in this Conference to prove their commitment to international criminal justice by concrete actions.**

Mr Chair, ladies and gentlemen,

Last Thursday, representatives of states and international organizations – many in this room today - applauded the inauguration of Omar Al Bashir as President of Sudan. What message did this give the victims in Darfur, where abuses are still continuing and justice remains elusive?

Omar Al Bashir is a fugitive from justice who should be arrested without delay and surrendered to the Court.

There are seven others fugitives from justice:

Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, Okot Odhiambo and Dominic Ongwen, wanted for crimes committed in Uganda, at large;

Bosco Ntaganda, wanted for crimes committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, at large;

Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb, wanted for crimes committed in Darfur, at large.

Mr Chair, ladies and gentlemen,

**Amnesty International urges all states present here today to make concrete pledges to ensure that all pending arrest warrants are promptly executed.**

States taking part in this Conference should pledge to:

- Arrest anyone – regardless of rank - wanted by the Court who find themselves in any territory subject to their jurisdiction;
- Provide concrete support for arrest operations taking place outside their territory;
- Sever all non-essential contacts with fugitives wanted by the Court;
- Request other states to cooperate fully with the Court; and
- Express public and diplomatic support for the enforcement of the Court's arrest warrants.

**In addition, Amnesty International urges all states present here today to make concrete pledges to provide the Court with their full co-operation.** States taking part in this Conference should pledge to:

- Enact national co-operation legislation;
- Ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court; and
- Enter into agreements with the Court for the relocation of victims and witnesses and for the enforcement of sentences.

The work of the International Criminal Court is under threat – not from opponents of international justice – but from the inaction of its supporters.

**Amnesty International urges all states present in this room to prove your words by your acts.**

Thank you Mr. Chair.