

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE OF ECUADOR ON
BEHALF OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN UNION OF NATIONS -
UNASUR**

REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE ROME STATUTE

Kampala, May 31, 2010

Mister President,

I have the honor to address this meeting on behalf of the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Union of South American Nations -UNASUR and of Members States: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela, and my country, Ecuador.

Mister President,

UNASUR was created in May 2008 with the goal to build, in a participatory and consensus-based way, a space for integration with a view to eliminate socioeconomic inequalities, achieve social inclusion and citizen participation, strengthen democracy, and reduce asymmetries, in the framework of the consolidation of the sovereignty and independence of its Member States.

As all its Member States are signatories of the Rome Statute, the Heads of State and Government of UNASUR, gathered in Buenos Aires on May 4, 2010, issued a special Declaration renewing their commitment to put an end to the impunity related to the most heinous international crimes and in this way they reiterate their support to the International Criminal Court, as an independent judiciary institution.

For UNASUR, the Review Conference of the Rome Statute constitutes a historical opportunity to make concrete decisions and promote the international criminal justice system. In this context, we the Member States of UNASUR commit our willingness and efforts to support the adoption of the Crime of Aggression and the conditions for the exercise of jurisdiction, in order to contribute to the independence of the International Criminal Court and to the integrity of the Statute. Furthermore, we offer our active participation in the stocktaking exercise of the international criminal justice.

UNASUR is keen in strengthening South America as a zone of peace, and in this effort, it ratifies the validity of the Rule of Law and the unwavering respect for human rights, as essential conditions for international peace and security.

Thank you