



Statement by the Delegation of the Argentine Republic to the
Fifth Assembly of States Party to the International Criminal Court
(Unofficial translation)

Mr. Chairman, Delegates, Observers and Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Argentine Republic recognizes the work carried out to consolidate the International Criminal Court by President Philippe Kirsch, Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo, and Secretary Bruno Cathala and by President Bruno Stagno Ugarte and the other authorities of this Assembly.

In the short time available for statements in this General Debate, its Delegation wishes to make some general considerations on the subjects at hand in regards to the Court. It is worthwhile to recall that its country participated from the beginning in the establishment of the ICC and that its consolidation is a one of its foreign policy objectives.

In this sense, Argentina values the work of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for the Victims, while at the same time underlining the importance of work of the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression. It also recognizes the theoretical and organizational challenges that confront the ICC. In so doing, it points to the importance and significance of this year's achievements. Said advances are also the result of the States Parties' daily commitment to trying to respond to the needs arising from this international judicial exercise.

The ICC has an essential role to fulfill and can count on the effective Argentine commitment to that end. While reaffirming its Government's permanent disposition to cooperate in its strengthening, independence and success, I want to underline the central importance of the connections between peace, justice and human rights and the ICC's role. To support it is to contribute to the progress towards a world justice system that banishes impunity and prevents crimes that we all abhor. In this respect, it is noted that in intensifying its judicial cooperation with it, the international community will contribute to strengthen the ICC's dissuasive capabilities.

Therefore, Argentina values the procedures now in place, which have been made possible by the Judges probity and the efficiency demonstrated by the Office of the Prosecutor in the investigations that have taken place and are ongoing. The Judges and the Chief Prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, can and will be able to count on Argentine recognition and support.

Regarding other matters, it is also worthwhile to point out the recent initiatives taken by the Court and the Office of the Prosecutor to promote dialogue and cooperation with the States party along with other international tribunals as a way to continue advancing towards a universal justice system. Argentina has been participating with interest in the analysis of the Strategic Plan and considers it to be an important contribution to the debate on ICC objectives and goals. Said Plan will be the basis for significant political, organizational and financial definitions.

On the other hand, it is important to take into account that the budget and organizational mandates are central to the functioning of the ICC. A proper policy for available financial resource assignment, as well as clearly defined organizational mandates will serve to strengthen it.

In finishing, I would like to express that Argentina calls upon those States that have not signed or ratified the Rome Statute to do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

The Hague, November 23, 2006