



# ECUADOR

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RODRIGO RIOFRIO,  
REPRESENTATIVE OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AT THE 6<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATE PARTIES  
TO THE ROME STATUTE**

**New York, 3 December 2007**

Mr. President of the Assembly of States Parties,  
Mr. President of the International Criminal Court,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Criminal Court has done an extraordinary job during this past three years reaffirming its character of a fully in force juridical institution. The Court's work has faded the original skepticism that existed regarding its effectiveness, independence and impartiality. We have regained hope that less humanity crimes will never occur again.

During this past year the presence of the Court has been more noticeable and its work begun to be better understood. The international community has witnessed a remarkable step in history where victims in an audience took the floor on their own rights and not on their witness capacity.

In this sense, it is also important to highlight the Court's efforts in providing security to victims, witnesses and their families overlapping their rights' protection over its own juridical responsibilities. These measures have brought us closer to the recognition of the individual as main subject of international law and the need to place peoples as central reference of policies and actions taken by States, international organizations and civil society.

Mr. President,

Great efforts have been undertaken to advance in juridical processes that have faced, however, the sad reality of arrest's orders not executed which represent the only measure to warrant a just trial and consequently the end of impunity.

My Delegation is strongly convinced that strengthening the cooperation among States and international organizations is indispensable and ensures that detentions, proof submission and relocations of witnesses, among other measures, are to be complied in an effective, transparent and opportune way.

Ecuador gladly agrees with the recommendations stated in the report of the Table regarding cooperation issues and considers it a necessary step in order to compromise the will of States. However, under the circumstances the Court is facing at this time, we should maybe begin to think in additional measures to effectively apply the Statute's norms regarding cooperation when there is no will involved.

My delegation is concerned by the lack of cooperation regarding arrest's orders in Sudan and thus, agrees with the statements made by previous delegations on this matter urging the Sudanese government to comply with Security Council Resolution 1593 and cooperate with the Court by enforcing said arrests.

Mr. President,

Ecuador is living an interesting moment of political and institutional change that will undertake elaborating a new Political Constitution of the State. A main focus of this reform is to place individuals in the center of the actions of the State and a wide and unrestricted protection of human rights. The constitutional reform will enable to extend the current juridical reform to promote a law on "crimes against humanity" defined and typified as sanctioned by the Rome Statute as well as norms that will comply with the complementary principle and obligations to cooperate with the International Criminal Court.

Civil society participation is crucial in the ongoing political process of my country; I would like to publicly thank the cooperation received regarding the establishment of an integral project on international criminal law that will be presented before the National Assembly.

Finally, my delegation reiterates its will to support the International Criminal Court's work that is beneficial to all of us.

Thank you very much.