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The Embassy of Australia presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and has the honour to refer to the Secretariat's Note ICC-ASP/6/S/20 dated 25 July 2007 regarding the Plan of Action of the Assembly of States Parties for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, in which the Secretariat requested States Parties to convey, by 30 September 2007, information under paragraph 6(h) of the Plan of Action.

The Embassy of Australia has the honour to advise that a number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region have indicated that the key obstacle to them becoming party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court is a lack of resources.

The Embassy of Australia has the honour to advise that on Monday 6 August 2007 the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade held an Asia-Pacific regional seminar on the International Criminal Court which was attended by the International Criminal Court Prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Hon. Alexander Downer MP, the Attorney-General, The Hon. Philip Ruddock MP, senior officials, including a number of Ministers, from countries throughout the region which are not yet party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court but which Australia assesses may be willing to consider becoming party, representatives of a number of States Parties, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court, Amnesty International and academics from the Australian National University. Countries represented at that seminar included Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, Cook Islands, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Switzerland, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Embassy of Australia has the further honour to advise that Australia will continue to promote the ratification of, or accession to, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court within the Asia-Pacific region. Australia has sought the views of a number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region as to how Australia might further assist them in their considerations.

The Embassy of Australia has the further honour to advise that the national contact point for matters related to the promotion of ratification and full implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court is the Director of the International

Law Section at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Embassy of Australia should be copied into all correspondence with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding plans for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The Embassy of Australia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court the assurances of its highest consideration.



The Hague
28 September 2007