

SPEECH OF THE EMBASSADOR MARIA DEL CARMEN GONZALEZ CABAL,
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES
PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE.

The Hague, November 23rd, 2006

Thank you Mister President:

The Ecuadorian delegation is joining the delegations that have preceded it in order to congratulate you, Mister President, for your nomination as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the close Republic of Costa Rica, as well as for the proficient manner of coordinating this period of sessions.

Mister President, Ecuador assigns special importance to the work of the International Criminal Court and considers it necessary to deepen its universality. For this reason it would like to congratulate Chad, Montenegro, Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Comoros for joining as full members of this high tribunal.

The Ecuadorian delegation hopes that in the future other countries will also unite in the fight against impunity.

We support the work that the Office of the Public Prosecutor has carried out in an independent, cautious and efficient way. We need a strengthened and well understood Organization. Therefore it will be necessary to encourage publicity and communication, especially in those areas affected by conflicts, so that everyone can clearly understand the goals pursued by our Organization.

Mister President, the Republic of Ecuador supports the Strategic Plan of the International Criminal Court and also advocates a fair and regional distribution, taking into account gender equality principles when selecting staff that will carry out the positions in the Organization.

We also insist on the establishment of the focus point of the Assembly of the States Parties to prepare the Conference of Revision, as is established in the Treaty of Rome.

The Republic of Ecuador is aware of the obligations which are the result of the Rome Statute, and therefore has made efforts to comply with their financial obligations as well as to offer the required cooperation with the intention of strengthening the main objectives of the International Criminal Court. As a consequence, with this principle our country ratified the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court on the 19th of April of this year, as a way of supporting the universality of the instruments that will allow the work of the Organization.

The Ecuadorian delegation has carefully read the reports of The Presidency, the Public Prosecutor and the Secretariat of the International Criminal Court. It also has considered the documents presented by the Non-Governmental Organization Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), as well as the Organization Human Rights Watch, about the problems that the organization faces in the investigation process in Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. We hope that the local governments offer more collaboration, in order to find the balance between peace and justice in a Region which has been suffering ethnic conflicts for an extensive period of time.

Mister President, it is not possible to continue being spectators of a world that has reached unthinkable levels of aggression, linked in some way with those countries which do not accept the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. For that reason, we advocate in favor of the universality of the Rome Statute, to have as a counterpart a tribunal of international justice that counts with the adequate tools to apply justice in an efficient and satisfactory manner. The International Criminal Court is and will be, therefore, the adequate answer to put an end to impunity.