



STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ITALY

TO THE 5TH SESSION
OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE ROME STATUTE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

BY
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THE HAGUE

(check against delivery)



Ministero degli Affari Esteri

ITALY

Mr. President,

the delegation of Italy fully supports the statement delivered by the Finnish Presidency of the European Union.

Mr. President,

nearly four years after the entry into force of the Rome Statute, the International Criminal Court is hearing its first case while continuing its investigations in a number of situations. The core activities of the ICC have thus become visible to the whole world and expectations are growing accordingly, while the Court itself is rapidly developing its own experience, both in the field and by testing its legal framework. However, the challenges ahead are numerous and concerted efforts of all international and national actors involved are needed to support the activities of the ICC.

Mr. President,

this General Debate bears witness to the political will of the international community to keep momentum on the shared mission of the international permanent criminal justice. Still, at this juncture, many signatory States of the Rome Statute have not yet become Parties to it and some Regions of the world are largely under represented in this Assembly.

Since the ICC is an institution which is universal in nature and scope, we believe that the focus should be maintained on the need to ensure the widest and most effective participation to the Court. In this perspective, Italy is pleased to announce that its instrument of ratification of the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court has been deposited with the Secretary General of the United Nations on the 20th of November. Implementing legislation for the Rome Statute is also a priority for the Italian Government and it is actively being considered.

We are also particularly pleased with the interest shown by Japan to speed up its accession process to the Statute and we encourage its efforts to complete domestic procedures whose relevant developments we will attentively follow.

Mr. President,

fulfilment of the many obligations stemming from the Statute is not always an easy task for many States, but it is essential to have the international criminal legal system fully operational.

We consider that important arrears in the contributions due by States Parties might in future adversely affect the operational capacities of the Court. On its side, Italy has taken action to allow the timely payment of its assessed contributions.

Moreover, a sound and structured budget is essential to perform the functions of any international organization and we appreciate that improvements have taken place in the preparation for the 2007 budget of the ICC.

However, thanks to the many achievements of the ICC in the period 2002-2006, we consider as completed the start-up phase of the organization of the Court and, in this regard, we expect further increases in the annual budget to reflect the actual level of expenditure and of judicial activity.

Furthermore, it is important that the existing level of resources as well as additional financial means allocated to the budget be always visibly devoted to the mandate of the Court and that some discrepancies underpinned by the Committee on Budget and Finance be corrected starting from this budget cycle.

Mr. President,

we express our appreciation for the fact that the dialogue between the Assembly and the ICC in previous sessions has led to a number of strategic planning documents. The Strategic Plan of the ICC is to be considered an essential instrument for ensuring the consistency of the mandate with the operations of the Court and, thus, for furthering consensus over the Court itself. In this perspective, we will look attentively into any progress achieved in the implementation of the Plan.

Mr. President,

in concluding my statement, I wish to emphasise that the Rome Statute system is a keystone in the development of an international legal order based on the principles of legality and accountability. The ICC has already started to perform its complementary role, thus contributing to the enhancement of international peace and security. This is an objective pursued with the utmost determination by Italy which will ensure its

continuous support to the functions and the activities of the Court in any forum and context.

Thank you, Mr. President.