



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by H.E. Ambassador Kim Hyun Chong

Permanent Representative

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Mr. President,

1. Let me begin by thanking you for your leadership in organizing and chairing this meeting. Under your able guidance, I believe that this year's session will be another success and make progress in resolving various issues before us.
2. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to commend Judge Kirsch and the other Judges, Prosecutor Ocampo, and the Court staff for their devotion and ongoing efforts to make the Court fully operational. My delegation also congratulates the three newly elected Judges. We are confident that they will contribute to the realization of the aims of the Rome Statute through their dedication and insight into international criminal justice. And we would like to thank the Secretary-General for demonstrating his strong support for the ICC by participating in this Assembly and by reminding us that there can be "no sustainable peace without justice".

Mr. President,

3. The aims of the Rome Statute to end impunity of the gravest international crimes and to guarantee enforcement of international justice are, of course, not easy to achieve. Nevertheless, the pace of progress has proven to be beyond our expectations. Positive achievements have included the rapid and

wide acceptance of the Rome Statute, the actual initiation of investigations and trials under the Statute, and demonstrations of willingness by States Parties to cooperate with the Court in various areas.

4. Since the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998, the number of States Parties to the Statute has grown quickly, reaching 105 with the accession of Chad and Japan this year. However, we have not quite achieved universal membership to the Court. We hope that the Court, as well as States Parties, will provide assistance to non-member States in order to prepare them for accession to the Rome Statute. In this regard, my delegation would like to restate its support for the Plan of Action adopted by this Assembly last year. The Republic of Korea will do its part by actively engaging in outreach and advocacy efforts to encourage more States to join the ICC.

5. The Republic of Korea has been an active and enthusiastic supporter of the ICC since its inception, and my delegation is pleased to see that the ICC is now a fully functional judicial institution. This year's achievements are remarkable and substantial. The Prosecutor of the Court is continuing to investigate the situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and Darfur, and judicial proceedings are taking place involving each of these situations. We note particularly that in the trial against Mr. Lubanga Dyilo, four victims participated in proceedings on their own behalf. It was the first time in the history of international criminal justice that victims participated in proceedings without being subpoenaed as witnesses and we recognize with satisfaction that the special consideration for victims addressed in the Rome Statute is fully functioning. In May, the Prosecutor also opened an investigation into the situation in the Central African Republic. Such progress will not only bring to justice perpetrators of heinous crimes, but will also serve as a deterrent to future atrocities being committed. The success of the Court will send a strong message worldwide that there will be no impunity for the most heinous crimes of concern to the international community.

Mr. President,

6. How the ICC handles these cases will be an important determinant of the Court's future and of whether it will be embraced by universal membership. To ensure the best possible performance by the Court, States should provide it with the financial, logistical, political, and legal support it needs to perform its work, thus enabling the ICC to realize the rule of law and end impunity for crimes under its jurisdiction. States Parties should also ensure that assessed contributions are paid in full and on time. Voluntary contributions are also encouraged as an important source of revenue.

7. In terms of the Court's functioning, it is important to note that the ICC does not have its own enforcement arms. The Court needs the assistance and cooperation of States to apprehend suspects, collect evidence, or execute its sentences. It is therefore critically important that the Court receive the

full cooperation of States and relevant international or regional organizations. In this regard, my delegation commends the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its recent surrender of Mr. Germain Katanga to the Court. Furthermore, noting that the full and immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 1593 is absolutely crucial, my delegation urges all relevant States to immediately provide the Court with the cooperation necessary to administer its outstanding warrants of arrest.

Mr. President,

8. I am pleased to inform you that the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea recently passed legislation implementing the Rome Statute, which will enter into force early next year. The Government of the Republic of Korea is available to share its experience regarding the preparation of implementing legislation with any country going through this process.

9. Turning to the matter of the crime of aggression, my delegation would first like to renew our appreciation to Liechtenstein for organizing the annual Intersessional Meetings of the Special Working Group on this issue. We urge the continued participation of States Parties and non-States Parties in the Special Working Group. My delegation believes that a resolution of this issue would provide a vital signpost toward world peace and we look forward to substantial progress being made at the current session. My delegation commits itself to contributing to such work by seeking solutions consistent with each and every clause of, and also consistent with the full context and spirit of, the Rome Statute and the United Nations Charter.

Mr. President,

10. With recent positive developments in mind, I sincerely hope that the ICC will continue to work diligently toward the eradication of impunity and to enhance its reputation as the only permanent international criminal court in the world. In closing, Mr. President, the Republic of Korea once again reaffirms its unswerving commitment to support the ICC in achieving its noble goals.

Thank you.