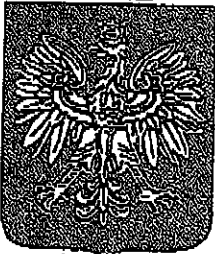


**REPUBLIC OF POLAND**  
**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



9 EAST 66th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

TEL. (212) 744-2506

Sixth Session of the Assembly  
of States Parties to the Rome Statute  
for the International Criminal Court

*Check against delivery*

**S T A T E M E N T**

by

**Ambassador Remigiusz A. HENCZEL**

Alternate Representative of Poland

New York, December 4, 2007

Mister President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Poland fully associates itself with the Statement of the EU Presidency made at the beginning of this debate.

Mister President,

My delegation is very glad to see you presiding over this meeting. We wish you success and assure you of our full support. Taking this opportunity I would also like to congratulate the newly elected judges as well as CBF members.

Mister President,

Poland has been a vigorous advocate of the idea of establishing the ICC and now actively supports its activities. The Court's achievements during 2007, particularly the most spectacular ones, including the issuance of three additional arrest warrants, the opening of a fourth investigation in the Central African Republic, significant advancements in judicial proceedings and strengthened presence in situation countries, have already been emphasized here. Poland joins in these commendations.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg – and a tiny one, at that. The main body of work takes place out of the limelight, often in the exceptionally adverse conditions of an ongoing conflict. Moreover, it is often necessary to restrict attention to the most hideous crimes, requiring the Court's involvement. And then there is the factor of time. The ICC must respond quickly, since only that guarantees effectiveness. On-site investigations usually mean operation in extreme conditions, as compared to analogous that we encounter in our countries. This segment of the Court's activity deserves special attention, since it appears to be under-estimated. It is the investigative stage that determines ultimate success: effective conduct of judicial procedures, identification of the witnesses and victims, collection of evidence and conviction of the perpetrators. That is why the work of on-site investigators should be accorded the same kind of concern and recognition that we attach to ensuring that the ICC has optimum conditions for the fulfillment of its duties in The Hague.

Mister President,

The fundamental reason for establishing the Court – the need to eradicate impunity with regard to the most serious international crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes – has lost none of its urgency. Guided by the same motives that led us to create the Court, we should do everything in our

power to effectively support the ICC. In this context, we should include our full collaboration with the Court - as our priority task - put to our permanent agenda. We also call on countries that are not parties to the Statute to grant the Court their appropriate assistance. After all, the conviction of perpetrators of the most serious international crimes is the duty of the entire international community. In this connection, one has to be concerned by the high number of the Court's arrest warrants that have not been carried out.

Poland has high appreciation for the assistance being provided to the victims of crimes within the Court's jurisdiction. Allow me to express our satisfaction that this year the Victims Trust Fund has attained full operational capacity and has launched the first projects in aid of victims. The Polish Government has decided to make also this year voluntary contribution to the Fund, this time amounting to 15 thousand Euros.

Mister President,

As to the Court's draft budget for 2008 Poland - generally supports it, and agrees in principle with the CBF recommendations treated as a package. However, we would like to stress that stabilization of the budget is a situation that the Court should strive to achieve. We would like to note with concern that the budget has been growing year to year since the Court's inception. Moreover, we still do not know the financial consequences of erecting the Court's permanent headquarters.

We are particularly concerned by the situation that might occur after 2012 and before the Court's new building is commissioned - that is during the transitional period. It may turn out that during that period we have to pay rent for the Court's premises and, simultaneously, to cover the cost of building the new headquarters. For that reason it would be desirable for States Parties to have advance knowledge of the expenditures ahead, to be prepared for their financial obligations.

In this context it would be advisable for the draft budget prepared by the Court to specify not only its respective, estimated components for the next financial year, but also the estimated size of contributions to be made by the respective States Parties. We would treat that as a preliminary estimation that could be changed, depending on the recommendations of the CBF, budget debate during the Assembly and shifts resulting from the accession of new States Parties to the Statute. This would make it possible to provide financial means for the ICC contribution when planning our national budgets, thus facilitating timely fulfillment of our financial commitments to the Court.

Thank you for your attention.