



**Media Update - 9 November 2005**

## **President of ICC Addresses UN General Assembly for the First Time**

*Over 100 UN Member States Press for Global Cooperation with the Court and Protection of ICC Treaty*

Following the International Criminal Court's (ICC) first-ever report to the United Nations General Assembly by ICC President Judge Philippe Kirsch, 25 UN Member States, that spoke on behalf of more than 100 nations, made substantive interventions at the General Assembly which included support for the ICC's work, including comments about the impressive developments made at the Court to date, defense of the integrity of the ICC treaty, and calls for stronger cooperation with the Court from the UN and member states alike. The 25 countries that spoke at the General Assembly session yesterday represented the 25 European Union states along with 10 aligned European countries; the 12 RIO Group countries; the 15 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries; the 27 African States Parties to the ICC; and others.

Many states pledged their commitment to cooperating with the Court. Unlike the International Court of Justice and the ad hoc tribunals established in the past decade including the International Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda and Special Court on Sierra Leone, the ICC is not a UN body. While the ICC signed a Relationship Agreement with the UN in September 2004, it does remain an independent judicial organization that lacks its own police force, making UN and state cooperation with the ICC all the more important. Tanzanian Ambassador Mrs. Irene Kasyanju stressed the crucial need for cooperation with the Court across the board, stating, "It will become the duty of States Parties and the international community to execute the arrest warrants issued by the ICC. The cooperation is not only limited to arrests but cuts across all spheres of activities by the ICC operations, i.e., in strengthening the capacity of Member States in building local networks, in the field of security, the establishment of logistics, information dissemination and other areas."

Judge Kirsch's address included updates on the Court's current cases in Uganda; the Democratic Republic of Congo; and Darfur, Sudan. Prior to this address, on 29 June 2005, ICC Prosecutor Mr. Luis Moreno-Ocampo had addressed the UN Security Council about the activities undertaken specifically by his office since the 31 March 2005 UN Security Council Resolution 1593, referring the situation in Darfur, Sudan to the ICC.

Noting the impressive strides made by the Court in its short but remarkable history to date, Swiss Ambassador M. Peter Maurer said, "[T]he Court has become, in a very short space of time, an indispensable pillar of the international peace and security architecture...[and] has become a true cornerstone of the fight against impunity at the international level."

Among the number of countries that spoke about defending the integrity of the ICC treaty, UN Ambassador from New Zealand H.E. Rosemary Banck stated, "While we understand the sincerity of those few states that have reservations about the ICC, in our view, the Rome Statute contains a comprehensive range of checks and balances to protect against abuse. Accordingly, while we respect the decision of those states who have decided not to become parties, we request these states to accord equal respect to the rights of states which chose to become party to the Rome Statute."

**President Philippe Kirsch's address from yesterday along with the full Report of the ICC to the UN [UN Doc. A/60/177]** are available on the ICC's website at: <http://www.icc-cpi.int/press/pressreleases/120.html>

**The statements made by the 25 UN Member States at the session** are available at the CICC's website at: <http://www.iccnw.org/documents/declarationsresolutions/ga60.html>

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