



President of ICC Delivers Second Annual Report to UN General Assembly

Need for International Cooperation Stressed, Especially with Continuing Investigation Difficulties in Darfur

Earlier today, in his presentation of the International Criminal Court's (ICC) second annual report to the United Nations General Assembly, ICC President Judge Philippe Kirsch stressed the Court's urgent need for cooperation from States, the UN, and regional organizations like the African Union, which has yet to finalize its cooperation agreement with the ICC. Underlining the urgency of this need, President Kirsch said, "Our experience over the past years has reinforced the importance of cooperation....The Court does not have the power to arrest [indictees]. That is the responsibility of States and other actors. Without arrests, there can be no trials." The President also stressed security concerns that have interrupted the Court's investigations, noting that "[s]ecurity in the field continues to be an omnipresent concern" and the fact that it has remained impossible for the Court to investigate in Darfur due to "local conditions". Instead, the Darfur investigation is taking place in other countries and the ICC has had to open an office in neighboring Chad.

Judge Kirsch's previous address to the Assembly took place in November 2005. In accordance with the ICC's Relationship Agreement with the UN, the Court submits a report of its activities to the UN annually, although the two institutions remain independent. Today's address included updates on the Court's current cases in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Darfur as well as updates on the Court's outreach and the ICC's preparation for possible future *in situ* proceedings that would take place in the situation country.

Following the President's address, 23 UN Member States, representing more than 100 nations, made substantive interventions at the Assembly, which included praise for the what was called the ICC's "indispensable work", commendation for the Court's first arrest of Congolese indictee Thomas Lubanga earlier this year, and calls for stronger cooperation with the ICC, especially with regard to the outstanding arrest warrants for four Ugandan indictees which have yet to be enforced.

H.E. Ambassador Margaret Hughes Ferrari, Permanent Representative of St. Vincent & the Grenadines to the UN, speaking on behalf of the 15 Caribbean Community (CARICOM Member) States, said, "We must all strive to protect the integrity of the Court and encourage others to do so including not only States Parties and States concerned but international and regional organizations as well as NGOs in such areas as preserving and providing evidence, sharing information and surrendering persons to the Court. It is the hope of the CARICOM States that this cooperation will be willingly given to enable the Court to fulfill its mandate and meet the complex challenges that lie ahead."

H.E. Ambassador Kirsti Lintonen, Permanent Representative of Finland to the UN, who spoke on behalf of the 25 European Union (EU) Member States and 12 additional European States who aligned themselves with the EU's statement, said: "The European Union remains convinced that peace and criminal accountability are not conflicting goals. Quite the contrary, to our mind sustainable peace cannot be achieved if the demands for individual accountability for the most serious international crimes are not duly addressed. Any society built on the rule of law has a greater possibility of coming to terms with vast abuses."

In addition to the EU and CARICOM, South Africa spoke on behalf of the 28 African ICC Member States and New Zealand spoke on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ). Embassy representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Croatia, DRC, Ecuador, Egypt, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, Ukraine, and Uruguay also spoke in support of the ICC.

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