Ten Years ago...
On 17 July 1998

the world witnessed a turning point in the growing movement to end the culture of impunity and bring forth an era of accountability. The adoption that day of the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court (ICC), is now celebrated as International Justice Day. This tenth anniversary year marks one of the most significant advances in international law since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the avowal of “never again” that followed the Nuremberg trials.

The International Criminal Court is the world’s first permanent, independent court to try crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. Currently, more than half of the world has joined the ICC. More than 40 states have adopted implementing legislation that enables their national courts to try the grave crimes outlined in the Rome Statute, cooperate fully with the Court, or both. The implementation of the Rome Statute in domestic legal systems also has positive effects on wider aspects of the national justice system, such as offering greater access to justice for all and setting higher standards of due process for the accused.

And the powerful deterrent effect of the Rome Statute may increasingly help safeguard the rights and dignity of future generations.

The relentless work of committed individuals everywhere has given rise to a worldwide demand for justice.

We today affirm that:

Together, we can end impunity, prevent atrocities and protect future generations.

Together, we can make justice universal and uphold the rights of victims.

**Answer the call for accountability, and urge your government to support the ICC now.**
IN THIS ANNIVERSARY YEAR, WE CALL ON:

Non-states parties to:

• Ratify or accede to the Rome Statute without delay. We urge Cameroon, the Czech Republic, Indonesia, Moldova, Nepal, Suriname and Ukraine—all of which are working toward ratification—to join the Court this year. We call on another ten states to join by the 2010 Review Conference.
• Incorporate the Rome Statute into domestic law.
• Ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC).
• Cooperate fully with the Court.

States Parties to:

• Incorporate the Rome Statute into domestic law. In particular, we urge at least 20 states parties to ensure full implementation of the Statute’s provisions by the 2010 Review Conference.
• Ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC). We also urge at least 20 states parties to ratify the APIC by the 2010 Review Conference.
• Cooperate fully with the Court by executing outstanding arrest warrants and concluding cooperation agreements such as those related to the execution of sentences and the relocation of witnesses.
• Ensure the integrity of the Rome Statute at the Review Conference.
• Express support for the Rome Statute in bilateral contacts with other states and in the context of multilateral bodies.
• Publicly express support for the Court whenever possible and appropriate.
• Encourage a neighboring non-state party and other non-states parties in general to join the Court.

Intergovernmental organizations, including the UN and regional organizations, to:

• Cooperate fully with the Court, including by assisting member states in the drafting and adoption of implementing legislation.
• Issue resolutions, joint statements, positions or declarations promoting the Court in general and situation-specific terms.
• Raise the importance of the ICC in relevant discussions with states.
• Adopt cooperation agreements with the Court.
• The CICC specifically calls on the following organizations to urge their member states and other states (when appropriate) to join the ICC and cooperate fully with the Court:
  o African Union
  o Andean Community of Nations
  o Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
  o Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
  o Community of Portuguese Language Countries
  o Council of Europe
  o European Union
  o League of Arab States
  o Southern Common Market (Acronym in Spanish is MERCOSUR)
  o Organization of American States
  o Organization of the Islamic Conference
  o Sistema de Integracion Centroamericano
Cover photo: During the Rome Treaty Conference that established the ICC, Amnesty International organized a lie-down (tutti giù in Italian) for justice. Filippo Monteforte/ANSA

Inside photo: A young boy displaced by the conflict in Darfur, Sudan. Doug Mercado/Photoshare