

**ITEM 146:**  
**INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman

This has been another eventful year for the International Criminal Court and the community of States supporting this important institution. It has been marked by the opening of the first two investigations by the Prosecutor, the non-renewal of Security Council resolution 1487, the entry into force of the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities, the successful third session of the Assembly of States Parties, the entry into force of the Relationship Agreement with the United Nations, and by a further increase in ratifications, now standing at 97. Liechtenstein, for its part, has made its contribution by organizing an inter-sessional meeting of the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression at the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination in Princeton, by adopting internal legislation implementing the Rome Statute, by acceding to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities, by participating actively in the work of the ASP and of the Friends of the ICC, and by standing up for the Court in the General Assembly and in the Security Council.

Mr. Chairman

I will focus my brief statement on what is in our view the main purpose of our debate today: to further strengthen support for the ICC, especially now that the Court has the chance to prove its independence and excellence by dealing with concrete cases. Such support has, on the one side, a practical dimension: We must ensure, as the Secretary-General underlined in his recent appraisal of the ICC's role in furthering the rule of law, that the Court has the resources, capacities, information and support necessary to end impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, where national authorities are unable or unwilling to do so. A robust budget and a fruitful working relationship with the United Nations, including the Security Council with its special responsibility concerning referrals of situations to the Court, are two important factors in this respect. States Parties doing their homework by adopting implementing legislation, paying their assessed contributions fully and on time and ratifying the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities is another one. On the other hand, support for the Court must be strengthened at the political level. We note with satisfaction that States Parties to the Rome Statute now constitute a majority in this room. But the pace of accession and

ratification must pick up again. Crossing the mark of 100 States might be a goal which we can set ourselves for the end of this year. But we must not forget that the Statute was signed by 139 States. The ultimate goal is universality.

Mr. Chairman

The international community in New York has a key role to play in fostering political support for the Court and for States considering ratification of the Rome Statute. We must always speak up for this historic Statute when it is challenged. We must explain its principles when they are not understood or misrepresented. And we must involve all States in this fight against impunity, be they already Parties to the Statute or not. We appreciate that the Secretary-General and many States have repeatedly expressed their support for the Court in the General Assembly and before the Security Council. We hope that the ASP will in the future periodically be held in New York as well as in The Hague, as envisaged by the Statute, and that as many UN Member States as possible continue to engage in the important work on the definition of the crime of aggression. We also hope that the ICC will soon have a Liaison Office in New York to complement those efforts, and to facilitate cooperation with the United Nations. In sum, we must use all avenues at our disposal to support the Court.

During the upcoming phase, operational and practical support from the United Nations Secretariat, specialized agencies and programs will be instrumental in enabling the Office of the Prosecutor to make speedy progress in its work. We are of the view that the Relationship Agreement signed between the Court and the United Nations provides a very solid basis for a constructive, regular and mutually beneficial working relationship.

Mr. Chairman

The International Criminal Court gives us a historic chance to fight impunity and to fill an enormous gap in the United Nations' quest for peace and security. If we fail to take it, this chance will not come soon again.

I thank you.