

Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the
International Criminal Court

Fifth Session

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Statement by

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Vienna, Austria

Mr. President,

Let me convey to you, to the organs of the Court and to Mr. Renan Villacis and his team our deep gratitude for your devoted work.

Austria fully subscribes to the statement delivered by Finland on Behalf of the European Union. Let me take this occasion to thank the Finnish Presidency for her engagement towards the ICC which became manifest in an excellent seminar on impunity organized in Helsinki earlier this year.

Mr. President,

Austria by tradition strongly supports the ICC. We were among the first to sign and ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities and the first State Party that entered into an agreement with the Court on the enforcement of sentences. During our own EU-Presidency we organized a regional conference for CIS-Countries as a contribution to our common goal of promoting adherence to the Rome Statute.

Austria joins other delegations in commending the Court for having laid out so transparently its Strategic Plan, its draft budget including the innovative Court Capacity Model as well as its outreach strategy. Our special gratitude goes to the CBF and its chairman Mr. Paschke for their invaluable recommendations which considerably facilitated our assessment of the budget.

Mr. President,

Let me pay tribute to the host country for having finalized the Headquarters Agreement and for the efforts undertaken to make available permanent premise for the Court. It is our sincere hope that this assembly take the necessary decisions to allow costly interim solutions to last as shortly as possible.

We found it very interesting and stimulating what was said by Denmark, Norway, Ireland and others about the interrelation between the Court and the UN-Security Council. We fully share the views expressed that combating impunity forms an essential part of maintaining peace and that this would require the best possible cooperation between the ICC and the UN, both on the ground and at a general institutional level, especially in New York.

Mr. President,

Austria welcomes Japan's intention to accede to the Rome Statute and shares the conviction voiced about the considerable impact this step would have on the Asian region. We stand ready to participate in assisting Japan to find a solution to the particular question referred to in the Japanese statement.

Austria participated in several consultations with regard to the ongoing peace talks on Northern Uganda. In this context we appreciate the commitment expressed by the distinguished delegate of Uganda towards a solution in accordance with the Rome Statute.

Finally, Mr. President,

We thank you for allotting special time to Mr. Rolf Einar Fife, focal point for the revision conference. Austria finds it useful and necessary to raise this important issue at this session. We intend to participate actively by presenting the results of an International Retreat Seminar which Austria organized last May in Salzburg and which was devoted to the future of the ICC. Advance copies of the report on this seminar will be made available for tomorrow's special meeting.

Thank you, Mr. President.