

24 January 2006

Dear Distinguished ICC State Party Representative,

On behalf of the NGO Coalition for the ICC (CICC), I wish to encourage all State Parties to participate in the resumed session of the Fourth Session of the Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court being held on 26th and 27th of January, 2006 in Conference Room 3 of UN Headquarters in New York.

We consider the election of the Judges to be among the highest responsibilities of State Parties.

In this regard:

The CICC wishes to encourage all states in arrears and at risk of losing their voting rights to make the necessary payments to restore your voting rights. If this is not possible, we encourage governments in arrears to send a letter to the Assembly confirming your government's commitment to meeting your financial obligations, and expressing your request that there are compelling reasons to grant your government an exemption in order to participate fully in the resumed Fourth Session of the ASP.

The Coalition would like to remind all State Parties that the election process and the decisions of governments to support certain candidates be based on the highest principles, including the professional qualifications of candidates, legal and judicial expertise, representation of all legal systems, and regional and gender representation. This is true for all elections, but even more important in the elections of international judges.

The Coalition further expresses its strongest support for the appeals by the President of the Assembly of State Parties that governments should refrain from the practice of making reciprocal agreements in voting that undermines the integrity of the election process and ultimately the credibility of the International Criminal Court.

Sincerely,

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About the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)

The CICC is a global network of over 2,000 civil society organizations supporting a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court. For more information, visit us online at: www.iccnw.org

