

Communiqué on the occasion of the Day of International Criminal Justice

On the Day of International Criminal Justice, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay and Venezuela, State Parties to the Rome Statute from Latin America, are pleased to recall the development and achievements of international criminal justice institutions.

The date of 17 July as International Criminal Justice Day was adopted by the Assembly of the States Parties during the Review Conference of the Rome Statute held in Kampala (Uganda) in June 2010 and marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the ICC.

The day commemorates the landmark steps that the international community is taking to reach the common goal of global justice and an opportunity for those who support justice around the world to make their voices heard.

Our countries believe it is appropriate to acknowledge the landmark steps that the international community has taken and continues to take to reach the common goal of combating impunity and delivering global criminal justice.

In this regard, we support international criminal justice tribunals established by the international community and believe they provide the sense of independent and impartial justice that post-conflict societies need. The United Nations must, therefore, continue supporting “ad hoc” Tribunals established by the Security Council, special tribunals established pursuant to arrangements between States and the organization, and the International Criminal Court.

At the same time, we should not forget that while much progress has been achieved, we still face a long and challenging road ahead.

Our countries would like to reiterate our belief that continued impunity for those who commit the most serious crimes of concern to the international community endangers the stability of the international order; and reaffirm our commitment to work for ending such impunity.

On this special date, we wish to recognize the paramount contribution of the International Criminal Court to the fight against impunity and reiterate our support to all the efforts made by the Court in this regard. We also wish to recall that the Court, as an independent judicial institution, applies the Rome Statute as it carries out its mandate in an impartial and unbiased manner.

In order to preserve the integrity of the Rome Statute and achieve universality our countries wish to invite States that are not yet parties to ratify or accede to it.

Our group would also like to recall the principle of complementarity, which affirms that States have the primary responsibility to exercise jurisdiction and to ensure an effective prosecution of crimes under the Rome Statute.

It is also imperative to ensure that all States cooperate with the International Criminal Court according to their international obligations. Today, we call upon all States to continue to do so and to strengthen their efforts in this regard.

Our countries would like to assert our indissoluble commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Rome Statute, in order that we may accomplish our shared goal of achieving lasting peace and justice.

New York, 17 July, 2013