

**EXCERPTS FROM THE 5359TH MEETING OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL
ON THE SITUATION IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

27 JANUARY 2006

During its 5359th meeting on 27 January 2006, the UN Security Council discussed “Peace, Security and Development in the Great Lakes Region.” Several states referred to the International Criminal Court (ICC), the need for putting an end to impunity, holding those responsible for egregious human rights violations accountable, and for international cooperation.

The following States issued statements: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Egypt, the European Commission, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Japan, Kenya, the Republic of Korea, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Qatar, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the USA, Zambia and Zimbabwe,.

Of these States, nine made specific reference to and expressed support for the International Criminal Court: Argentina, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, and Uganda.

Argentina

“We do not believe that acts of the past must inevitably be repeated in the future. Structural changes, such as coordinated assistance in the creation of stable institutions, the reconstruction and development of countries during the post-conflict period – *inter alia*, by the recently established Peacebuilding Commission – and an end to impunity at the national level for violators of human rights and humanitarian law, or at the supranational level by the constitution of international tribunals or by the action of the International Criminal Court, may generate the necessary incentives to reduce the recurrence of conflicts in the region.”

- *His Excellency Ambassador D’Alotto, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the UN*

Austria (on behalf of the European Union)

“For lasting progress to be achieved, international partners need reliable, democratic partner Governments. It is important that political systems be democratic and inclusive and that they create a climate of trust and participation by all. Good governance and the rule of law will create an environment that is conducive to reconstruction. It is, therefore, essential to take decisive action against corruption, ensure respect for human rights, strengthen the rule of law and fight against the climate of impunity. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Court have a central role to

play in the efforts to bring to justice those responsible for serious human rights violations, war crimes or crimes against humanity.”

- *His Excellency Ambassador Pfanzer, Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN*

Canada

“Because atrocities, sexual aggression and sexual violence persist, justice also requires an end to the impunity with which perpetrators violate human rights and humanitarian law. To that end, we strongly support efforts to build independent and reliable national judicial institutions, and we call upon each country in the region to cooperate with and support the International Criminal Court in its investigations of crimes against humanity.”

- *Her Excellency Mrs. Anne Leahy, Ambassador of Canada for the Great Lakes Region*

Denmark

“In order to secure long-term stability and respect for the rule of law, all States concerned must take action to bring to justice perpetrators of grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. And all states should cooperate with international criminal courts to ensure the apprehension and surrender of suspects.”

- *Her Excellency Ambassador Loj, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN*

Greece

“However, in recent years, considerable, albeit painstaking improvements have taken place. Those include a remarkable national reconciliation in Rwanda; a successful organization of the referendum in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and an overwhelming approval of the new constitution; peaceful and democratic elections in Burundi, a bright example that led to the election of a new president and Government; and the weakening of the Lord’s Resistance Army and the issuing of indictments to its leaders by the International Criminal Court. [...]

We firmly believe that ending impunity in the Great Lakes region will contribute to the promotion of peace and stability there. In that respect, we would like to emphasize the central role that the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Court can play in bringing to justice those responsible for serious violations of human rights, war crimes and crimes against humanity.”

- *His Excellency Ambassador Vassilakis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN*

The Netherlands

“The international community should assume its responsibility to address this threat to regional security, which is combined with the humanitarian crisis. In that respect, we hope that the International Criminal Court’s arrest warrants concerning five leaders of the LRA will be effectively executed as soon as possible, also in the light of their preventive impact on further atrocities.”

- *His Excellency Mr. Frederik Racké, Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region*

Norway

“The International Criminal Court (ICC) has taken an important step by issuing its first arrest warrants for five Lord’s Resistance Army commanders. Norway will continue to

support the ICC in its efforts to bring an end to impunity for grave human rights violators.”

- *His Excellency Ambassador Lovald, Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN*

Slovakia

“There are new patterns emerging in the campaign of the Lord’s Resistance Army, including attacks on humanitarian workers and peacekeepers who are on the ground to help refugees and internally displaced persons and to safeguard peace. We think that decisive action is needed to stop the destructive activities of the Lord’s Resistance Army and to bring perpetrators to justice by executing the warrants of the International Criminal Court.”

- *His Excellency Ambassador Burian, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the UN*

Uganda

“We are convinced that the leadership of the LRA will never cross back into Uganda without being captured and handed over to the International Criminal Court (ICC). [...]

The ICC has documented evidence and has indicted the top five LRA leaders for crimes committed against humanity in the Great Lakes region. [...]

Fifthly, it should urge the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to intensify military pressure to disarm the LRA as a negative foreign force operating from their territories and to cooperate fully with the ICC by implementing the arrest warrants issued by the Court on LRA terrorist leaders and to hand them over to the ICC.

Sixthly, under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council should mandate MONUC and the United Nations Advance Mission in the Sudan (UNAMIS) to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan to disarm the LRA elements operating in the southern Sudan and in Garamba National Park and in executing the ICC arrest warrants for the LRA leadership.”

- *Mr. Sam K. Kutesa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda*