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**STATEMENT OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF
VENEZUELA IN THE VIII ASEMBLY OF STATES
PARTIES OF THE ROME STATUTE
THE HAGUE, NOVEMBER 19TH, 2009.**

Mr Chairman,

First, let me express on behalf the people and Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the warmest and most sincere wishes of our Delegation for the success and positive outcomes of discussions, meetings and rounds of consultations in the framework of the Eighth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute.

Furthermore, we give the congratulations to the Delegations and experts from Argentina and Japan for its success on the last Wednesday, for achieved the required votes for election of their candidates as new judges of the ICC, which demonstrates the commitment of these countries to the principles and spirit of the Rome Statute.

We also acknowledged the commendable and laudable efforts of the illustrious President of the ICC and the rest of the honourable judges, as well as the Prosecutor, the Deputy Prosecutor, the distinguished Registrar of the Court, the Presidency and the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties, similarly, we hope that their decisions, determinations and activities remain marked by professionalism, excellence and success.

Mr Chairman,

Having been met eleven years subscription to the Rome Statute, we welcome with joy the accession of both the Czech Republic and the Republic of Chile to the Rome Statute, which are members of more recent addition to the family of States Parties of the International Instrument that governing this International Court. With these new additions already added to the present 110 States Parties to the Rome Statute, which is constituted by one part in a message of unequivocal support for universal criminal justice and on the other hand, called on States are not yet parties of the Rome Statute those regulations have been ratified without further delay so that it can incorporate into its domestic law so that States are not yet members of this treaty may have a positive approach to international criminal justice and universality. It is precisely the focus of the awareness of political and social actors of States on the importance of the criminal justice system of universal, emphasizing the complementary and timely cooperation as tools which he uses this new international legal system.

Mr Chairman,

The vocation of commitment and respect of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the maintenance of the values underlying the universal peace, human coexistence and solidarity among peoples, make our country will give preferential treatment and supra-constitutional to the promotion, dissemination and protection of human rights.

Currently, besides the parliamentary discussion in our National Assembly about the Law on domestic application of the Rome Statute and its regulations, the proposal to a Judge of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela of the Penal Code reform, which contains the addition of two articles defining the crimes currently covered and operating in the Rome Statute.

Precisely, that inclusion in the Venezuelan domestic criminal law criminalizing the figures of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, on the same terms provided in the Rome Statute and the adjectival part of these types of crimes (procedure) could be done not only by the Penal Code reform, but also by the amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Organic Code of Military Justice to incorporate the definition of the aforementioned crimes.

It is anticipated that these crimes are of an indefeasible in our domestic legislation in line with the principles of the Rome Statute itself and the principles of international law of human rights as enshrined in the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mr Chairman,

Similarly, we recognize the importance that the Review Conference will have the Rome Statute, which will take place in the city of Kampala, Uganda, from 31 May of the next year. We also highly appreciate the publicity has had this conference in the international community, including the interest it has in most states not yet party to that international legal instrument.

We take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the commendable and laudable efforts and achievements made by the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression, led by His Excellency Mr. Christian Wenaweser (Ambassador of Liechtenstein and Chairman of the Assembly of States Parties).

Mr Chairman,

We rejoice for the commendable work done by members of the Victims Trust Fund and the Committee on Administration and Finance under the commendable work of both bodies this allows our International Criminal Court, available in the first case, the means of providing assistance to victims of crimes under the Rome Statute, and in the second case because the required funds administered by the Court or available for work, which are contributed by its States Parties, thus

contributing with the strengthening of universal and complementary vision of universal criminal justice.

Recognizing that the human race is only one and that the welfare or impairment of the world affects us all human beings, the notion of lasting and stable peace must be nurtured every day, for every single citizen of this planet, with the example of tolerance, with the preaching of acceptance for others and respect the rights of others. The best way to eradicate the most serious crimes against humanity is to promote the values that instil the peace as a precondition of life, as a necessity and as a right irreplaceable. However, recognizing our brothers with their cultural differences can we build a world in which they act responsibly and be fully aware that what affects a single human being, a reason to harm others, be it the germ of the injustices and conflicts.

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