

**United Nations Security Council
Situation in the Great Lakes region
20 December 2006**

On 20 December 2006, the Security Council under the Qatar Presidency held a meeting on the situation in the Great Lakes region. Discussions focused on the conclusion of the Second Summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in Nairobi, Kenya on 15 December 2006 and the signing of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region. The Pact includes a protocol on the prevention and suppression of the crime of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and all forms of discrimination.

Mr. Ibrahima Fall, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, opened the debate and was followed by Ms. Liberata Mulamula, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. Several statements by State representatives referenced the International Criminal Court and/or the need to address impunity for serious crimes including Denmark, Ghana, Argentina, Peru and Greece (in order of statements). A Presidential statement was issued on behalf of the Council at the conclusion of the meeting.

The following excerpts from statements were taken directly from the UN meeting record and are listed in the order they were presented (S/PV.5603).

Speaker/Country	Statement
H.E. Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN	“Finally, 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 violations of human rights and international law. Impunity should not be the order of the day, and all States must cooperate with international criminal courts, including the International Criminal Court, to facilitate investigation and to ensure apprehension and surrender of suspects. Where the United Nations is engaged, it should be part and parcel of its mandate to assist States in eliminating impunity.”
H.E. Ambassador Nana Effah- Apenteng, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the UN	“It is important that political systems are democratic and inclusive, and that they engender a climate of trust and participation by all. Good governance and the rule of law will create an environment conducive to reconstruction. It is essential to take decisive actions against corruption, ensure respect for human rights and fight the climate of impunity and politically driven justice prevailing in the wider region. 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 and war crimes.”
Mr. Paul Johnston, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the UN	“Therefore, we feel strongly that action and implementation will be the most important and, indeed, the hardest part and the real test for the Governments concerned, individually and collectively. In that context, my delegation would endorse wholeheartedly what the Ambassador of Denmark has just said about the issues of protection of civilians and impunity.”
Mr. Federico Bartfeld, First Secretary of Permanent	“However, we must also underscore that granting amnesty for serious human rights violations as part of a strategy to end a conflict usually does not lead to positive results in the long term, given that combatants rarely give up their weapons and lasting peace is rarely achieved when

Mission of Argentina to the UN	reconciliation is not a viable option for society. It is possible to end the culture of impunity only by meting out impartial justice for all violators of human rights and international humanitarian law. That, in turn, would provide a solid foundation for long-term stability in the countries of the region.”
Mr. Chávez, Deputy Permanent Representative of Peru to the UN	“Since the beginning of the year, the Security Council has witnessed a process of dialogue and aimed at achieving a ceasefire and reaching a political understanding between the Lord’s Resistance Army and the Government of Uganda. For Peru, there can be no peace if impunity continues to exist. For that reason, my country is following developments in the Juba peace process and hopes that the humanitarian and development needs in northern Uganda will be met in accordance with the comments made by that country’s Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence. We must continue to follow developments in Burundi as well.”
H.E. Ambassador Adamantios Vassilakis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN	“We firmly believe that ending impunity in the Great Lakes region, as well as establishing the foundations for sustainable economic development, addressing humanitarian and human rights issues, supporting institution-building, combating corruption and strengthening the rule of law and good governance, will contribute to the promotion of peace and stability in the region. In that respect, the International Criminal Court, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations system in general could prove to be valuable.”