

*[Please note: This is an unofficial translation.]*

## XXVIII Meeting of the Council of the Common Market

The XXVIII Regular Meeting of the Council of the Common Market and Summit of Presidents of MERCOSUR was held this past June 20 in Asunción, Paraguay. Participants included the Presidents and Ministers of the MERCOSUR states, and the associated states Panama and Mexico; and representatives from BID (Inter-American Development Bank), ALADI (Latin American Integration Society), CAN (Community of Andean Nations), CAF (Andean Growth Corporation), Canada, India and Israel.

### PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION OF MERCOSUR'S COMMITMENT TO THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The Presidents of the MERCOSUR member states, mindful that their countries ratified the Rome Statute, which established the International Criminal Court, stress the importance and reach of said instrument.

We reaffirm their commitment to the principles of international law, signaling that the entry into force of the Rome Statute represents a step forward for the international community towards ending impunity for those who commit crimes against humanity as defined in the Statute.

We restate the necessity of guaranteeing the independence and efficacy of the International Criminal Court, as well as its universal reach through the cooperation of all States.

Together we adopt a common position for MERCOSUR with regard to Section 2 of Article 98 of the Rome Statute. We commit to not enter into multilateral or bilateral agreements with third States which would affect the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court or other obligations established in the Rome Statute.

Asuncion, June 20, 2005

For the Republic of Argentina, Nestor Kirchner  
For the Federal Republic of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva  
For the Republic of Paraguay, Nicanor Duarte Frutos  
For the Republic of Uruguay, Tabare Vazquez