



Special Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)

Special Declaration on the First Review Conference on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

Buenos Aires, 4 May 2010

The Heads of State and Government of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), taking into consideration that the Treaty creating UNASUR -signed in Brasilia on 23 May 2008-, enshrines the principle of unrestricted respect for universal, indivisible and interdependent human rights, as one of the essential conditions for building a common future of peace, economic and social prosperity and development of the peoples:

1. Express their belief that impunity for the authors of the most serious crimes under international law established in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court is a factor that endangers the stability of the international order.
2. Underscore the historical importance of the First Review Conference on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, to be held in Kampala, Uganda, on 31 May-11 June 2010.
3. Highlight the fact that all UNASUR nations are Parties to the Rome Statute and, as such, commit to supporting the objectives of the Review Conferences aimed at completing the international criminal justice system adopted at the 1998 Rome Conference, focused mainly on the ICC.
4. Express their commitment to work constructively on the Review Conference with the purpose of adopting specific decisions on the topics to be analyzed; and to participate actively in the examination exercise of the international criminal justice system to be carried out at said Conference, also encouraging Non Parties and civil society to partake in the work.
5. Recall the mandate of articles 5.2 and 123 of the Rome Statute by which the States undertook the commitment to make all possible efforts so that the Review Conference adopts a definition of the Crime of Aggression and the conditions for the Court to have jurisdiction over that crime. In this regard, they undertake the commitment to work actively so that deliberations on the jurisdiction matters regarding the crime of aggression are as effective as possible and contribute to the independence of the International Criminal Court and the integrity of the Rome Statute.



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6. Highlight the efficient work carried out by the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression, using a transparent and inclusive process, in which Parties and Non-parties to the Rome Statute, as well as other actors with an interest in this issue, took part.
7. Take note of the proposals for a provision on the crime of aggression, prepared by the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression, forwarded to the Review Conference by the Eighth Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute.
8. With a view to ending the impunity of the authors who commit the most serious crimes of an international transcendence established on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, reaffirm their support to the International Criminal Court and stress the opportunity which the Review Conference will have for strengthening its mandate in compliance with the Rome Statute.



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