

New York, 9 February 2010

Your Excellency:

On behalf of the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), a network of over 2,500 non-governmental organizations in more than 150 countries advocating for a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court (ICC), I am writing to urge your government to commit to ratifying the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC (APIC) in advance of the upcoming Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The Review Conference will be convened by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 31 May in Kampala, Uganda.

Excellency,

Among the fundamental principles of the historic Rome Statute is that the ICC be complementary to national criminal jurisdictions. It is crucial that states enact national laws implementing the provisions of the treaty, so that national justice systems can investigate and prosecute individuals accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide and cooperate with the Court in its investigations and prosecutions.

To date, 57 States Parties have adopted full or partial ICC legislation. We strongly encourage all states to fulfil their obligations as Parties to the Statute and take concrete measures to adopt legislation that criminalizes ICC crimes nationally and establishes provisions regulating cooperation with the ICC.

In addition, we encourage all states to ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the ICC in preparation for the Review Conference. Although article 48 of the Rome Statute includes a series of general provisions relating to privileges and immunities, these are not detailed or thorough enough. The APIC includes protective provisions on par with those in article 105 of the UN Charter relating to the privileges and immunities of UN personnel for the optimal fulfilment of UN functions. APIC precisely defines these protections and related obligations of States Parties in greater detail, and bestows the ICC with the capacity to effectively protect its personnel, victims, witnesses and other people and resources associated with the Court's work.

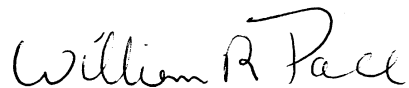
THE CICC IS A GLOBAL NETWORK OF OVER 2,500 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING
A FAIR, EFFECTIVE, AND INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT.

To date, 62 countries are States Parties to this instrument. We hope that more countries across the globe will soon join them. Universality of both the Statute and the APIC remains an important objective, one that will bolster the ICC's credibility by demonstrating that accountability and the rule of law are globally shared principles.

Thus, the Coalition urges your government *to ratify the APIC and adopt robust ICC legislation in time for the Review Conference*, as these actions will enrich and invigorate the work in Kampala, and will ultimately make both the ICC and individual states stronger and better equipped to fulfil their role in ensuring that genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes no longer go unpunished.

The CICC remains at your disposal for any support and information you might wish to receive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William R. Pace". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William R. Pace
Convenor
Coalition for the International Criminal Court