

## AMERICAS NEWS:

### GREAT SUPPORT FOR THE ICC AT THE THIRTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN WINDSOR, CANADA (June 4-6, 2000)

#### OAS Secretary General and Various Foreign Ministers Express Their Support for the ICC:

- While addressing Representatives of Civil Society, OAS Secretary General, César Gaviria, expressed strong support for the ICC and urged all Member States to push for ratification.
- In his opening speech, President of the General Assembly and Canadian Foreign Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, stressed the importance of the ICC in breaking with the impunity associated with war crimes, and like the Secretary General, urged Member States to sign and ratify the Rome Statute.
- In the discussion on Human Security, Foreign Ministers Luiz Lampreia of Brazil, María Soledad Alvear of Chile, Ralph Maraj of Trinidad and Tobago, José Vicente Rangel of Venezuela and Esteban Aguirre of Paraguay each took the floor and expressed their support for the ICC.

#### OAS General Assembly Resolutions Urge Ratification:

Two resolutions passed by the General Assembly recognized the importance of the establishment of the ICC.

- The resolution on the *Promotion of and Respect for International Humanitarian Law* resolved, “Also to urge the members states that have not yet done so to consider signing or ratification, as appropriate, of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.”<sup>1</sup>
- The resolution on *Children and Armed Conflicts* “Welcom[ed] with satisfaction the recent international efforts to address the issue of the forced recruitment of children, including the adoption in 1998 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.”<sup>2</sup>

#### A Canadian Proposal for State Cooperation to Promote Ratification in the Americas:

The Canadian Delegation presented a document entitled *Framework for OAS Action on the International Criminal Court*, where it:

- 1) urged OAS states that have not yet signed the ICC Statute to do so by December 31,
- 2) requested that OAS states that have not yet ratified the ICC Statute commit to early ratification,
- 3) and suggested organizing an OAS seminar on the implementation of the ICC Statute. Canada added that it was prepared to assist financially in the organization of such a seminar.

---

<sup>1</sup> AG/doc.3864/00.

<sup>2</sup> AG/doc.3873/00.

**Joint NGO Statement Calls on States to Ratify the ICC to Protect Human Rights and Combat Impunity in the Americas:**

A joint NGO statement was circulated at the General Assembly session that stated that “it is encouraging to see that more and more countries of the region are signing the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.” Further, the statement declares that “[t]he International Criminal Court, which will complement action taken by the national justice systems, is set to become an essential instrument for the prevention of widespread or systematic human rights violations and war crimes. The combined action of the International Criminal Court and of national Courts will allow for the effective fight against crimes against humanity and war crimes, as well as for the eradication of impunity.” It subsequently calls for all Member States to sign and ratify the Rome Statute.