

STATEMENT BY WILLIAM PACE, CONVENOR OF THE COALITION FOR THE ICC

On the occasion of the entry into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

Also relating to the efforts of the US government to amend the Rome Statute and secure immunity from prosecution

1 July 2002

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Not all can claim, like Brazil, that yesterday they won the World Cup, but the Governments here today have won the World Cup in international law!

We look forward to celebrating this with all of you tonight at the reception kindly co-hosted by the Bureau and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court.

Mr. Chairman,

- All who believe in democracy, justice, and the rule of law can celebrate the entry into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as one of the greatest advances in international law since the United Nations Charter 57 years ago.
- All who remain determined to save future generations from the scourge of war can celebrate the entry into force of the ICC treaty as one of the greatest developments of the tools and technology of peace in history.
- The entry into force of the new system of international criminal justice represents a truly great victory for the protection of universal human rights and the advancement of human security.
- The entry into force of the Rome Statute represents a great achievement of a new model of international law making - the new diplomacy partnership between governments and non-governmental organizations of civil society.
- The success of the International Criminal Court means wars diminished, conflicts prevented, and millions of lives saved.
- Now we must campaign for the success of the new ICC, and to secure universal ratification for the treaty and to promote the adoption of strong national implementing legislation for the Rome Statute.
- We are very encouraged to hear this morning from so many nations that have not ratified, but express their intentions to do so.

- Though there is a dark cloud over our celebrations, in truth, international justice has actually won and the ICC opponents have lost.
- The CICC remains fervently committed to fight to protect the integrity of the Rome Statute and principles of international law.
- The efforts of those to undermine peacekeeping or other vital facets of the UN's responsibility to maintain international peace and security, will in the long run, only serve to weaken the moral and political credibility and leadership of those who make these inappropriate demands.
- International law, international justice, and international peacekeeping are inextricably linked and mutually reinforcing. The ICC has been, as the Secretary General said yesterday evening, a vital "missing link" which today we celebrate being connected.
- The NGOs and the Coalition, the UN and other international organizations have made indispensable contributions, but delegates, above all, this is an achievement of the Governments, the Member States, and the great leaders of the Preparatory Conference, the Rome Conference, and the Preparatory Commission, such as you Mr.Chairman and Adriaan Bos of the Netherlands before you.
- On behalf of civil society worldwide and of the victims of the terrible crimes against humanity, the Coalition salutes the governments for this great and historic advance in democracy, justice, and the rule of law in international affairs.

Thank you.