



**UN PRESS RELEASES FROM PLENARY AND COMMITTEE DEBATES  
OF THE 62nd SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2007)**

**PLENARY**

**General Assembly, Plenary, World Leaders Striving to Rebuild War-Torn Nations Champion Gains, Seek Broad Global Support, as General Assembly Wraps Up Second Day of General Debate, UN DPI News Release, GA/10623, 26 September 2007, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/ga10623.doc.htm>**

VALDIS ZATLERS (President of Latvia)

Acknowledging the need to work towards a satisfactory outcome to the Bali Conference at year-end, also welcomed the fact that the Security Council had been able to adopt the groundbreaking resolution 1769, authorising deployment of a hybrid operation in Darfur. It was imperative that the resolution was brought to life and the political process continued. [...]

As Latvia had suffered from foreign occupation and regained its freedom, his Government hoped to prevent the sufferings of others. 'We wish to promote the healing process,' he said. He commended the work of the International Criminal Court and hoped the Peacebuilding Commission would be an effective tool for consolidating long-term peace. [...]

MICHELINE CALMY-REY (President of Switzerland)

[A]sked where the responsibility lay in an age when civilian populations found themselves an easy prey to suicide attacks and sophisticated weapons, when children were forced to become soldiers, and when climate change posed a threat to the survival of the planet. [...]

'If we are to get results, confrontation must give way to dialogue,' she continued. 'We must develop alliances based on shared values.' By transcending regional, ideological, and cultural limitations, solutions could be found. The recent past demonstrated what could be achieved: the International Criminal Court, the Human Rights Council, and the Mine Ban Treaty were the result of broad-based coalitions of countries from all regions of the globe. [...] Also, she reiterated the condemnation of terrorism in all forms and expressed support for the work of the International Criminal Court, though for it to be effective it required the full support of the international community.'

**General Assembly, Plenary, Missed Opportunities for Middle East Peace Push People Towards Despair, Make Them Easy Prey to Extremists, General Assembly Told, UN DPI News Release, GA/10625, 28 September 2007, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/ga10625.doc.htm>**

MOUSSA OKANLA (Minister of Foreign Affairs African Integration and French-speakers and Beninese living abroad of Benin) [...] Turning to Security Council reform, he said the Council must be made more representative of the United Nations membership and more transparent in its working methods, taking into account the



realities of today's world. He also called for a peaceful end to the Israel-Palestine conflict, an international treaty to combat arms trafficking, and for the perpetrators of human trafficking to be brought to justice by the International Criminal Court. He welcomed expansion of the United Nations mechanism to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers. [...]

MASAHIKO KOUMURA (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan) [...] Japan, next month, would accede to the International Criminal Court while helping improve legal systems in developing countries, he continued. Japan had signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, he said. Hoping for the improvement of the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the issue of the abductions there, Japan would also pursue the adoption of the resolution of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at this session of the General Assembly.

**General Assembly, Plenary, National Security Strategies, Non-Proliferation, 'Credible Deterrence,' Conflicts in Horn of Africa among Topics as General Assembly Debate Nears Conclusion , UN DPI News Release, GA/10627, 2 October 2007, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/ga10627.doc.htm>**

CARSTEN STAUR (Denmark) [...] The world faced many conflicts, not least in Africa, he said, adding that United Nations capacity in conflict prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding must be enhanced. Helping the people of Darfur to achieve peace was an obligation. The killings, violence and atrocities had gone on for too long. Denmark supported the UNAMID Operation and the resumed political process, which raised real hopes for improving a deplorable situation. International Criminal Court arrest warrants must be implemented as part of the process. [...]

ROBERT HILL (Australia) [...] Ongoing military operations by the Government of the Sudan and last weekend's killing and abduction of African Union peacekeepers by rebel forces demonstrated the urgent need for the parties to stop such crimes and build peace. Those who had committed crimes should be punished, and Australia called upon the Government of the Sudan to act on the warrants issued by the International Criminal Court.

**General Assembly, Plenary, No One More Determined to Stop Darfur Bloodshed Than Sudan's Government, Foreign Minister Tells the General Assembly, as General Debate Concludes, UN DPI News Release, GA/10628, 3 October 2007, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/ga10628.doc.htm>**

ROSEMARY BANKS (New Zealand) [...] Turning to global justice and international peace and security, she encouraged Member States to provide their full support to the International Criminal Court by acceding to the Rome Statute. However, efforts to maintain the international rule of law could only be effective when built on a foundation of international peace and security. Interfaith and intercultural dialogue would help counter religious extremism, and the United Nations Alliance of



Civilizations remained the key multilateral process among the growing number of initiatives. [...]

PHILIP SEALY (Trinidad and Tobago) [...] He stressed his Government's commitment to protecting human rights on a national level and applauded the International Criminal Court for helping to do the same internationally. International Criminal Court jurisdiction should be expanded to include international trade in illegal drugs. Also on the subject of international laws, any legal regulation of marine genetic resources – the area of international waters beyond national jurisdiction – should ensure that any exploitation of the resources of the area would benefit all members of the international community and not only those with financial resources and technical know-how.

**General Assembly, Plenary, General Assembly Concludes High-Level Dialogue on Interreligious Understanding; President Says 'There Is Much More that Unites Us than Divides Us,' UN DPI News Release, GA 10633, 8 October 2007, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/ga10633.doc.htm>**

JOAO SALGUEIRO (Portugal) speaking on behalf of the European Union and associated countries [...] Rule of law at national and international levels needed strengthening, as did the international community's cooperation with the International Criminal Court. On humanitarian reform, he called for advancement through improved coordination capacity and more predictable funding. Though the Union was alarmed by the humanitarian and security situations in Sudan, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and Sri Lanka, it supported collective efforts to improve the effectiveness of the international humanitarian response. [...]

BASO SANGQU (South Africa) [...] In addition to poverty and underdevelopment, he said there were other challenges the United Nations needed to meet. Specifically, it should strengthen actions to address human rights violations and the humanitarian situation in Darfur, Sudan, as well as ongoing conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Palestine, Israel, Iraq, Afghanistan and Myanmar. He added, "no amount of peacekeepers in any territory can ensure a durable peace unless and until justice based on law prevails", and expressed support for the strengthening of the International Criminal Court.

**General Assembly, Plenary, Presidents of Tribunals for Former Yugoslavia, Rwanda Address General Assembly, Ask for Continued Support, as Completion Dates Approach, UN DPI News Release, GA/10636, 15 October 2007, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/ga10636.doc.htm>**

FAUSTO POCAR (President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia) spoke of the impact of the Tribunal in light of its unprecedented mandate at its founding. While demonstrating that international criminal law was enforceable and capable of contributing to the restoration of international peace and security, it had served as a catalyst for the proliferation of other ad hoc international or mixed Tribunals administering international criminal justice to Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, East Timor, Lebanon and for the establishment of the permanent



International Criminal Court. The message of all those institutions was clear, he said -- “there will be no impunity where there is international will”.

**General Assembly, Plenary, Presidents of International Court of Justice, International Criminal Court Presents Reports to the General Assembly, UN DPI News Release, GA/10652, 1 November 2007,**  
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/ga10652.doc.htm>

Her [Rosalyn Higgins, President of the International Court of Justice] presentation was followed in the afternoon by a briefing from Judge Philippe Kirsch, President of the International Criminal Court (ICC), who told delegations that the ICC – the world’s only permanent court trying individuals for war crimes, genocide and other breaches of international law -- was about to open its first trial. Earlier this year, ICC judges had confirmed war crimes charges against Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, an alleged Congolese warlord accused of enlisting, conscripting and using children under the age of 15 to participate in hostilities. A Trial Chamber was currently dealing with preliminary procedures before the trial to begin early next year. [...]

Highlighting cooperation by States, he noted that some countries had responded to requests for assistance in the area of logistics or field support, while others had entered into agreements with respect to the enforcement of sentences or the protection of victims and witnesses. At the same time, a number of direct requests for assistance had not yet been fulfilled, the outstanding arrest warrants being the most significant among them.

“Without arrests, there can be no trials [and] without trials victims will again be denied justice and potential perpetrators will be encouraged to commit new crimes with impunity,” he said. Further, the implementation of the Court’s judicial decisions had been “uneven”. While clearly the situations and cases before the Court were linked to broader complex political issues and developments, “compliance with the decisions of the Court is not just another issue on the negotiating table,” he asserted. Compliance was a legal obligation under the Rome Statute, as well as relevant Security Council resolutions.

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### GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIRD COMMITTEE

**General Assembly, Third Committee, Former Child Soldier Takes International Community to Task for Failure to Do More for Children Living Amid Conflict, UN DPI News Release, GA/SHC/3888, 17 October 2007,**  
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gashc3888.doc.htm>

The representative of Australia said that they urged all States to become party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and welcomed the role of the International Criminal Court on the question of impunity.



**General Assembly, Third Committee, Third Committee Approves Resolution Urging States to Strengthen International Cooperation to Prevent, Suppress Terrorism, UN DPI News Release, GA/SHC/3889, 18 October 2007,**  
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gashc3889.doc.htm>

SANJA ŠTIGLIC (Slovenia) [...] Slovenia was pleased to see progress being made regarding children and armed conflict. Important steps had been taken in the fight against impunity, with the entry into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court which defined the recruiting of children into armed forces and armed groups as a war crime. Slovenia, together with the city of Ljubljana and non-governmental organizations had set up a foundation that gave particular attention to the psycho-social rehabilitation of children affected by conflict in the Western Balkans, Iraq and North Caucasus.

**General Assembly, Third Committee, New Human Rights Council Could Help Put Rights Abusers on Notice, Third Committee Told, UN DPI News Release, GA/SHC/3893, 24 October 2007,**  
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gashc3893.doc.htm>

The Committee had before it the Secretary-General's note on Civil and political rights, including the questions of independence of the judiciary, administration of justice and impunity (document A/62/207). It transmits the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers. The report details two missions by the Special Rapporteur, Leandro Despouy, to the Maldives and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [...] He concludes by recommending that the African Union sign a relationship agreement with the International Criminal Court. He also recommends that trials of the Iraqi Supreme Criminal Tribunal be conducted in accordance with international standards, or that an international criminal tribunal be constituted with the cooperation of the United Nations.

**General Assembly, Third Committee, Third Committee Calls on International Community to Focus on Upcoming Review of Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing, UN DPI News Release, GA/SHC/3894, 25 October 2007,**  
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gashc3894.doc.htm>

LEANDRO DESPOUY (Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers) [...] Turning to the Sudan, he said a lack of cooperation by that country with the International Criminal Court was a concern which seriously impeded investigations and the appearance of suspects before the Court. The Special Rapporteur also warned Uganda against reaching a peace agreement that would include amnesty for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other human rights violations. [...]

The representative of the Sudan said his country had not ratified the Rome Statute under which the International Criminal Court was established, and so there was no jurisdiction for the International Criminal Court in the Sudan, which had the judicial capacity to take care of its own affairs, he said. Regarding alleged crimes in Darfur,



he said that three tribunals had begun work, and the Court had no jurisdiction over any crime examined by those bodies. He said he hoped the Special Rapporteur would not involve himself on that issue and confine himself to his mandate.

The representative of the Russian Federation asked about the Special Rapporteur's work to strengthen the International Criminal Court, and added that his country was looking forward to Mr. Despouy's visit. [...]

The representative of Argentina said his country supported the very important work of the Special Rapporteur as well as his position on the death penalty. Highlighting Mr. Despouy's work on the International Criminal Court, the representative also mentioned the need to step up cooperation so that the Court could carry out its functions. What were the Special Rapporteur's views on the outcome of the expert seminar on human rights and states of emergency? What were his expectations, and how did they relate to the evolution of international humanitarian law? [...]

He [Mr. DESPOUY] thanked the Sudan for the clarification, and said his mandate as Special Rapporteur was very clear, adding that the Security Council had brought the case of Darfur to the International Criminal Court. What he knew was that the preliminary chambers were working, and charges were being formulated by the prosecutor.

**General Assembly, Third Committee, System of Impunity Making Mockery of Special Procedures to Address Extrajudicial Killings, Rapporteur Tells Third Committee, UN DPI News Release, GA/SHC/3895, 26 October 2007, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gashc3895.doc.htm>**

TITINGA FRÉDÉRIC PACÉRE, Independent Expert to provide assistance to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the field of human rights, said the human rights situation in the country remained worrying. Serious violations included arbitrary executions, rape and inhuman and degrading treatment. Those were still being committed, particularly by the armed forces and the police, in a climate of impunity. [...]

He said authorities must demonstrate zero tolerance for human rights violations. To combat impunity, they should give priority to issues such as: endowing the judiciary system with the sufficient means and budget to guarantee its efficiency; ensuring no amnesty for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity; adopting a law to apply the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; giving support to the mapping team; and establishing a "vetting" process for defence and security forces. Moreover, the massacre at Buramba must be investigated, and the disarmament process in southern Kivu accelerated. He called for independent judiciary investigations into incidents in Bas Congo and Kinshasa in the January to March 2007 period.

The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo [...] said the international community had to be aware of the momentum in place to deal with sexual exploitation, adding that strengthening the rule of law continued to be a major



challenge. No State could address the challenges in a post-conflict society alone, which explained his country's commitment to international justice and to the International Criminal Court. The Democratic Republic of the Congo's faith in international criminal justice would never make the country lose sight of its own justice system. Beyond the speeches heard in this room, the Democratic Republic of the Congo needed specific actions that would restore the country after years of war. With the setting up of the universal periodic review mechanism, his country could be reviewed like others.

**General Assembly, Darfur Remains Region Where Gross Human Rights Violations Are Perpetrated by All Parties, Rapporteur Tells Third Committee, UN DPI News Release, GA/SHC/3896, 28 October 2007,**

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gashc3896.doc.htm>

SIMA SAMAR, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan [...] set out a number of recommendations. [...] full cooperation with the International Criminal Court to arrest those accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity; guaranteeing the freedoms of journalists and human rights defenders; and ratification of remaining international human rights instruments. [...]

The representative of Canada said the conclusions in Ms. Samar's report justified the extension of her mandate. Her country called on all parts involved to work towards the improvement of human rights in the Sudan. She asked what role the international community could play, and said the culture of impunity in the Sudan was a matter of concern. She asked how that country could be helped to cooperate with the International Criminal Court.

**General Assembly, Third Committee, Capital Punishment Not Prohibited under International Law, Third Committee Told, UN DPI News Release, GA/SHC/3897, 30 October 2007,**

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gashc3897.doc.htm>

YUKIO TAKASU (Japan) [...] Turning to human rights in other parts of the world, he said that the human rights situation in Myanmar was a source of concern. The authorities had used force against peaceful demonstrators, resulting in heavy casualties, including a Japanese citizen. Japan welcomed the trials in Cambodia of former Khmer Rouge, and said that they would finally bring to justice those who were guilty of committing truly heinous acts. His country recently completed the ratification procedure and became a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and would participate actively in that Court's effective functioning. "We should never interrupt our efforts or give up hope for the future", he said in conclusion. Japan would continue to work to promote and protect human rights with the United Nations.

**General Assembly, Third Committee, More Vital than Ever to Move Away from Selectivity and Partial Approaches to Human Rights Issues, Third Committee Told, UN DPI News Release, GA/SHC/3898, 31 October 2007,**

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gashc3898.doc.htm>



ANDREAS D. MAVROYIANNIS (Cyprus) [...] He said the occupying Power had also brought more than 160,000 settlers from Turkey in an effort to alter the demographic composition of the island, which constituted a war crime according to the Statute of the International Criminal Court. Any settlement of the Cyprus question must be based on international law, relevant United Nations resolutions, European Union principles and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. Full conformity with individual human rights standards for the people of Cyprus as a whole, regardless of their ethnic origin or religion, should be an integral element of any just, comprehensive, functional and sustainable solution.

**General Assembly, Third Committee, Majority of Real, Burning Human Rights Situations in World Have Not Earned Attention of New Human Rights Council, Third Committee Told, UN DPI News Release, GA/SHC/3907, 16 November 2007, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gashc3907.doc.htm>**

The representative of Liechtenstein welcomed the approval of resolution 'L.16/Rev.3', concurring with those delegations, who during negotiations, had stressed the urgency for the international community to act against systematic rape in conflict-affected societies. The International Criminal Court had a key role to play in ending impunity, including in cases where rape was concerned. He regretted that the main sponsor had not taken language on board to reflect that key role; for that reason, Liechtenstein did not co-sponsor the draft.

The representative of Portugal, on behalf of the European Union, also welcomed the approval of the draft, and called for a much greater response from the international community on the issue, which was also being addressed by the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Effective cooperation by States, as well as international and regional organizations, was essential for that Court to carry out its activities, she said. The European Union's co-sponsorship of the draft was evidence of its commitment to work with others. That the General Assembly was taking leadership on the issue was commendable; others within the United Nations system should address the matter as well. [...]

The representative of Canada, speaking also on behalf of New Zealand, said they attached great importance to the urgent need to eliminate rape and other forms of sexual violence, including in conflict situations. Their commitment was reflected in numerous initiatives in which they had played an active role. He also highlighted the important role of the International Criminal Court in the issue of violence against women. The resolution was interpreted as falling within a broader international normative framework that included the Beijing Declaration and Programme of Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTH COMMITTEE

**General Assembly, Sixth Committee, United States Tells Assembly's Legal Committee Anti-Terrorism Efforts Must Stress Prevention of Global Expansion, Address Legitimate Grievances, UN DPI News Release GA/L/3319, 11 October 2007, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2007/gal3319.doc.htm>**

ALLIEU IBRAHIM KANU (Sierra Leone) [...] [H]e noted that although the Security Council had adopted a number of resolutions which helped to reduce terrorist acts, attacks that had taken place since adoption of those resolutions had become more deadly. Thus far, he said, resolutions and declarations that proscribe and prohibit terrorism and provide for the prosecution of terrorist acts had been largely ineffective and lacking enforcement mechanisms.

He noted that there was still a stalemate on the legal definition of terrorism; politicizing the discussions on adopting a definition was the main reason why it was not included in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. He said terrorists should be prosecuted as perpetrators of crimes against humanity, under Article 7 of the Rome Statute.

**General Assembly, Sixth Committee, As Legal Committee Begins Debate on Rule of Law, Delegates Discuss Differences in National, International Implications, UN DPI News Release, GA/L/3326, 25 October 2007, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gal3326.doc.htm>**

STEFAN BARRIGA (Liechtenstein) [...] He said, his country was deeply committed to the rule of law at the national and international levels, both with respect to its procedural and substantial aspects. He said the United Nations was in a unique position to support the rule of law globally, and hoped that Member States' commitment to an international order based on the rule of law and international law, as expressed in the World Summit Outcome and in the General Assembly resolution on the item, would translate into stronger action. Despite some setbacks, the United Nations had been instrumental in bringing about progress for the rule of law, including through referral of Darfur to the International Criminal Court and strengthening rule of law elements in peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

**General Assembly, Sixth Committee, Assembly's Legal Committee Is Told Nations Coming from Conflict Need Help in Establishing Effective 'Rule of Law,' UN DPI News Release, GA/L/3328, 26 October 2007, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gal3328.doc.htm>**

TULLY MWAIPOPO (United Republic of Tanzania) said impunity thrived in the absence of the rule of law and was an affront to the rule of law. [...] The International Criminal Court also brought justice to the perpetrators of the gravest crimes. The recent accession of Japan to the Rome Statute was welcome, and those States that had not yet accepted the Court's jurisdiction should do so with a view towards strengthening the rule of law. [...]



ZACHARY MUBURI-MUITA (Kenya) said the role of the International Criminal Court in the peaceful settlement of disputes could not be over-emphasized, and the role of international tribunals was just as important. The Secretary-General's trust fund for assisting States to settle disputes through the Court was "a milestone in the advancement of the rule of law at the international level". The United Nations should make full use of the Court's competence by requesting advisory opinions. The deliberations on the possibility of authorizing the Secretary-General to request such opinions were welcome. [...]

ASMUND ERIKSEN (Norway) [...] Another important objective, he said, was the promotion of international criminal justice, and added that his country supported the international criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court, including by advocating the widest possible accession to the Rome Statute which established the Court. Norway was providing funding for the Court's Legal Tools Project, which was a resource base for national authorities, law practitioners and scholars around the world. He also said the establishment of the International Court of Justice had clearly demonstrated its vital and constructive role in conflict resolution."

**General Assembly, Sixth Committee, Legal Framework Urgently Needed for Equitable Management of World's Water Resources, Assembly's Sixth Committee Told, UN DPI News Release, GA/L/3332, 1 November 2007,**  
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gal3332.doc.htm>

PATRICIA O'BRIEN (Ireland) [...] [O]n the subject of the obligation to extradite or prosecute, said the relationship between this obligation and the principle of universal jurisdiction should be carefully considered. There was much common ground between the two, in terms of material scope and the shared objective of ending impunity. But they served different functions in the international legal order. A debate should be held, and the intention to formulate a draft article on the definitions was welcome. Also to be carefully considered was the impact of 'surrender' to an international tribunal and the obligation to extradite or prosecute, particularly with regard to the permanent International Criminal Court and the fact that not all States were parties to the Rome Statute.

**General Assembly, Sixth Committee, President of World Court, in Address to Assembly's Legal Committee Notes 'Inequality' in Compensation of Judges; Attention Needed, GA/L/3333, 2 November 2007,**  
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gal3333.doc.htm>

PHANI DASCALOPOULOU-LIVADA (Greece) [...] The only link between the obligation and universal jurisdiction was that which would require that *the aut dedere aut judicare* obligation applied to a specific league of crimes, such as those that concerned humanity as a whole like genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Those were obviously the types of crimes that had prompted the creation of the International Criminal Court and for which, presumably, universal jurisdiction should apply. [...] It would be wise at this stage, and pending the outcome of the process which might lead to the acceptance of universal jurisdiction for certain



crimes, to delineate the contours of the obligation *aut dedere aut judicare* in as clear and unambiguous way as possible. The basic premise for that context would be to identify the crimes for which the maxim would be applicable and to identify certain other conditions it would be subject to. Such conditions might be different in the case of extradition from those for domestic prosecution. Another possibility, worth exploring, was the requested State, instead of either prosecuting or extraditing, to surrender the person in question to the International Criminal Court.