



Check Against Delivery

STATEMENT

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR CRISPIN GREY-JOHNSON
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 146: INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
DURING THE MEETING OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE**

**NEW YORK
14TH OCTOBER 2004**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me take this opportunity to assure you of my delegations cooperation during your chairmanship of our Committee. Our intervention on agenda item 146 International Criminal Court is born out of The Gambia's deep commitment to the promotion of justice and international rule of law. These are not mere concepts. They are quintessential in today's intercourse between states as they constitute the bedrock of multilateralism. The International Criminal Court has come a long way and is here to stay.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is very pleased that all the institutional arrangements of the court are now fully operational. With the two referrals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, the constitution of pre-trial chambers and opening of investigations in the referred situations, we can confidently say that the credible march towards combating impunity is well underway. This in itself is a victory for, and affirmation of, confidence in the court. Every true believer in the pursuit of justice and the rule of law should be energized by this fact alone.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation fully welcomes the signing of the Relationship Agreement between the UN and the Court as another milestone in the annals of international justice. Our two organizations share the overarching goal of the maintenance of international rule of law and justice. Nothing can be more lofty than these goals in an era of impunity. The UN needs the ICC and the ICC needs the UN. It is this symbiotic relationship that the organs of the UN, especially the Security Council need to enhance in a constructive manner as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

Confidence in the ICC continues to grow at an impressive pace. This is seen in the growing number of countries that are becoming party to the Rome Statute. Over half of the membership of the UN are already members of this noble court. We must however not rest on our oars in thinking that this is enough. Our goal must remain the attainment of universality.

Mr. Chairman,

The number of states parties that have signed or ratified the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities continues to grow as well. These milestones do not occur by accident, but through commitment, dedication and unflinching support for the court and its mandate. We in The Gambia are committed to the ICC and shall do everything possible to advance the interest of the court. Confidence in the ICC continues to grow unabated regardless of the cynicism being expressed in certain quarters. The future belongs to those who are determined to confront impunity and not to the detractors of the court.

Once again we call on all to work together for the advancement of the court with a view to attaining universal ratification of the Rome Statute.

Thank you.