

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The 1999 UNA-USA National Convention,

Gravely aware of the human capacity to commit genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression,

Concerned that the ability of States to prosecute these crimes may at times be non-existent or compromised,

Mindful that these crimes are a threat to all members of the international community including the people of the United States,

Grateful that the international community has adopted a Statute to establish an International Criminal Court,

Aware that the Court will prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression where national courts are not available or unwilling to confront these crimes,

Confident that the Court will strengthen peace and the rule of law,

Reassured by the strength of the due process provisions in the Statute,

Grateful for the United States contributions to the Statute,

And contemplating the leadership role of the United States in the field of human rights and the need for the international community to unite against barbarity,

Recommends that the UNA-USA Board of Directors authorize the Association to undertake, in collaboration with the many other American non-governmental organizations committed to the Court, a nationwide program of education and advocacy, and to pursue funding for this program from interested donors,

Further Recommends that the UNA-USA Board of Directors send a letter to the President and Congress of the United States urging them to proceed with the signature and ratification of the Statute of the International Criminal Court as soon as possible.

Note: The United States voted at the Rome conference against the adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court but agreed to participate in the upcoming Preparatory Commission, especially because the Preparatory Commission will provide under its mandate an opportunity "to discuss ways to enhance the effectiveness and acceptance of the Court". The Preparatory Commission has to draft the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and other legal instruments required for the functioning of the Court. Ultimately, most of these legal instruments, including the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, will have to be adopted by the Assembly of States Parties to the Statute. The Assembly of States Parties is in charge of many further tasks such as the settlement of dispute, disciplinary actions against judges and prosecutors, or the adoption of amendments to the Statute. Yet, if the U.S. does not ratify the Statute it will not be able to participate in the Assembly of States Parties.

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