

**United Nations Association of the USA
2001 National Convention**

March 23-26, 2001
The Roosevelt Hotel
New York, NY

S. 5 STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The 2001 UNA-USA National Convention,

Recognizing that the United States upholds the rule of law at home and abroad;

Acknowledging that the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court establishing a permanent international criminal court will provide the basis for undertaking impartial investigation and trial of individuals accused of perpetrating genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes when national criminal justice systems cannot;

Recalling that the United States made significant contributions to the negotiation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and its supplemental documents, including its Rules for Procedure and Evidence and its Elements of Crimes, but that concerns about alleged risks for U.S. military personnel or policymakers have helped fuel opposition to the Court in influential political circles;

Commending the signature of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court by the United States on December 31, 2000;

Noting that a total of 139 states have signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, including virtually all America's NATO allies, and that 29 states--of the 60 needed for it to go into effect--have already ratified the Statute;

Aware that the International Criminal Court will go into effect shortly, perhaps as early as next year, and that some of the alleged risks to U.S. officials cited by critics would exist whether the United States is a party or not;

Convinced that U.S. ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court will advance U.S. interests as well as American values;

Concerned that the United States under a new administration may not participate in on-going negotiations in the United Nations Preparatory Commission on the International Criminal Court with the level of commitment necessary to advance U.S. interests and international justice;

Therefore calls on UNA-USA to:

1. Urge the U.S. Administration to engage constructively in all aspects of the negotiations of the Preparatory Commission on the International Criminal Court so that U.S. interests are represented;
2. Urge other member states in those negotiations to be attentive to opportunities to make agreements that increase the confidence level of U.S. decision-makers on issues that do not impinge on the core purposes of the Statute;
3. Propose that the Administration undertake a full and inclusive policy review of U.S. policy toward the Court in a process that incorporates the views of all sides of the debate and that reaches out to include representatives of concerned American civil society; and
4. Look for opportunities to advance national and international dialogue on these issues so that the Court is better understood in the United States, thus creating the political foundation to achieve full participation and formal ratification by the United States.