

**CONVENER'S STATEMENT ON THE PURPOSES, PROGRAMS, AND STRUCTURE
OF AMICC FOR ITS FIRST MEETING**

This follows up our recent personal or telephone conversations about the American non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for the International Criminal court (AMICC). I am grateful for the time, thought and care you gave to these discussions. It is very encouraging that almost all of you have confirmed that your organizations will be founding members of AMICC. A few of you will be observers. AMICC will therefore begin with more than 20 founders.

The launch meeting will be at 3 pm on Monday, June 25 in the Arthur Ross Conference Room in the offices of the United Nations Association of the USA on the second floor of 801 Second Avenue (at 43rd) in New York. The meeting will end absolutely no later than 5 pm. As I have mentioned in most of our conversations, this session will be atypical for AMICC. Normally, meetings of the Coalition will be rare, much shorter and narrowly focused on a specific problem, policy question or strategy.

Most of you are now familiar with AMICC's intended purposes, goals and operations. In brief summary, AMICC is a program of the United Nations Association of the USA, but will belong collectively to its members. Its goals are, a) strong material, moral, financial, technical and human resources support for the ICC from the start by the United States even while it has not yet ratified the Court's Rome Statute and, b) the earliest possible ratification. The Coalition will work for both goals simultaneously while recognizing that they are not likely to be realized at the same time.

Membership in AMICC requires no financial contribution or participation in fundraising. Members will expect cooperation and support from each other to maximize their strengths and offset their limitations. They will look to the AMICC secretariat for services, expertise, information, coordination, encouragement and occasional inspiration. The launch meeting will be an occasion for AMICC founding members to review and approve the Coalition's goals, describe their expectations, discuss the Coalition's first challenges, and establish its strategy.

All of you agreed in our conversations that the steering committee should represent the main categories of AMICC members. These representatives and their organizations should of course have a strong and public commitment to the ICC. The main groups to be represented as we start (as we will discuss at the meeting there are several obvious and missing categories to be added) are organizations concerned with religion, human rights, children, young adults, scholarship, and organizations that have found themselves in broad support of the ICC through commitment to a very specific interest (e.g., nuclear policy, abolition of torture). In a separate message, I will propose members of the steering committee and invite candid comments about these. If and after these candidates are confirmed at the meeting, each will speak briefly to introduce her or himself and his or her organization and its commitment to the ICC. This will make the representatives known to the members, and also, and especially important, give us a clear sense of our diversity, range and reach.

Subject to the wishes of the founding members at the meeting, the following will be among its responsibilities and functions. It will work with the convener in eliciting broad policy and strategy from the entire membership. The committee will advise and instruct the convener on urgent responses to sudden events when time is too short to consult all members. It will assist the convener in defining his or her role as AMICC progresses, and in carrying it out in particular situations. The separate message will provide more detailed suggestions about the steering committee.

This launch marks the end of long fundraising and preparation. It will be the beginning of a new adventure for American civil society in moving our government and society toward a further horizon in international affairs. It is an exhilarating prospect for all of us. Thank you for being part of it.