

**Statement from Canada in explanation of position after the General Assembly Sixth  
(Legal) Committee adopted a resolution on the International Criminal Court on  
November 19, 2004**

Mr. Chair,

Canada applauds the adoption of the resolution on this agenda item. This resolution sends a strong signal that the ICC has a key role to play in international criminal justice, and thus in international law more broadly.

However, Canada is deeply disturbed by what appear to be ongoing efforts to undermine the ICC's legitimate and necessary role in the international legal system. All States that support judicial mechanisms to respond to serious international crimes should also be troubled by efforts to undermine the ICC.

While Canada would far prefer to see universal ratification of the Rome Statute, we respect the right of any state not to become a party to it. But Canada also believes that non-parties should be respectful of the rights of states which have chosen to become parties to the Rome Statute. In particular, States Parties and those that wish to become States Parties have the right, without hindrance, to nurture the ICC and ensure that it becomes the responsible and effective judicial mechanism it was designed to be -- and indeed has already become.

Canada recognizes that some have concerns about the Rome Statute, although we and many others believe such concerns are misguided. One thing we all agree on, however, is the importance of ending the culture of impunity that has been allowed to flourish in international law for far too long. But efforts to undermine the ICC send one message only: and that is a message of support and encouragement to the forces of impunity. As such, efforts to undermine the ICC are ultimately inimical to the interests of us all - parties and non-parties to the Rome Statute alike.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.