

June 12, 2003

Statement by Ambassador Dr. Gunter Pleuger, Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN, at the Security Council Meeting on peacekeeping/ICC

Mr. President,

Germany supports the position of the European Union as expressed in the statement of the Greek Presidency earlier today.

Germany was and remains a major driving force in the creation of the International Criminal Court. As a State Party Germany is deeply committed to the mission of the ICC: to fight impunity by prosecuting those responsible for the most serious crimes which are of concern to the international community in situations where national jurisdictions do not prosecute these crimes.

The ICC project has been consistently and actively supported by the present and earlier governments of the Federal Republic of Germany. The German Parliament has repeatedly expressed its support for the ICC across party lines.

Justice is, and must remain, indivisible. At the beginning of the new millennium, the ICC will serve as an efficient and indispensable instrument to further international security, peace and justice.

The ICC is not an impediment to peacekeeping, but a safeguard. The ICC, as an institution designed to prevent impunity, can play an important role in protecting peacekeepers in the execution of their missions.

The judges and the prosecutor of the ICC have meanwhile been elected. Germany is confident that experience will show that the ICC is going to work impartially, justly and without politically motivated misuse."