

Excerpts from statements at the Special Plenary
of the 10th PrepCom on the ICC on 3 July 2002

Delegate from Australia, on behalf of the Like-Minded Group

"As chair of Like-Minded Group, we have serious concerns about the development in the Security Council. Members of the Link-Minded Group are, in particular, committed to the principle of fully safeguarding the integrity of the Rome Statute."

"The Like-Minded Group expects the Security Council to resolve this matter in a way that fully respects this Statute and international law."

Delegate from Fiji

"The Security Council should remain steadfast in its role to maintain international peace and security."

"This resolution [before the Security Council] will effectively kill the Court before it is born."

"We ask countries on the Security Council to vote against these proposals, and maintain the integrity of the Rome Statute and international law."

Delegate from Switzerland

"We do not want to see the Security Council be a legislature."

How is it possible that the International Criminal Court would jeopardize international peace and security?"

"The Security Council does not have the competence to adopt law that runs contrary to a treaty that is in full compliance with the United Nations Charter."

Delegate from New Zealand

"It is not open to the members of the Security Council to hijack Article 16 of the Statute."

It would damage the moral authority of UN forces, and protect them from taking responsibility for their actions."

"The gains made in Rome should not be sacrificed, only three days after it's entry into force."

Delegate from Liechtenstein

"The issues [being debated] are not new. Indeed, they have been discussed in a legally-sound and politically-circumspect manner [in

Rome]."

"We find these resolution unacceptable for two reasons: For one, concerns regarding frivolous and politically-motivated cases were addressed in the Rome Statute in a substantive manner; ...and second, the mandate of the Security Council, clearly laid down in the UN Charter, does not include competence in treaty-making."

"We expect the Security Council to act in its mandate and keep the integrity of the Rome Statute."

Delegate from Canada

"What is now at stake is not the ICC versus peacekeeping; the fundamental principles of international law and international relations are at jeopardy."

"[Adoption of this proposal in the Security Council would represent] inappropriate political interference in a judicial process..."

"...This proposal would send the message that peacekeepers are above the law."

"To block the ICC is to allow impunity."

"We appeal to the members of the Security Council that the fundamental principles of international law are not compromised."

Delegate from Syria, on behalf of Arab countries

"...[The inclusion of Article 16 in the Rome Statute] did not grant the Security Council the automatic right to grant exemptions."

"We appeal to the Security Council to assume it responsibility and not accept these exemptions because that might damage the credibility of the Court before it is born. We oppose this resolution."

Delegate from United Arab Emirates

"The principle of granting immunity is an exception to the application of the Rome Statute, and this is a violation of the principles agreed upon when we established the Court."

"We recognize the need to prosecute criminals regardless of their origin and without discrimination."

Delegate from Burundi, on behalf of the African Group

"The African Group believes that the adoption of such a proposal would be a violation of the letter and spirit of the Rome Statute."

Delegate from Malawi, on behalf of the Southern African Development Community

"The Southern African Development Community regrets the developments in the UN Security Council, which are clearly aimed at undermining the integrity of the International Criminal Court."