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Statement by H. E. Ambassador Zhang Yishan On the
Entry into force of the Rome Statute of ICC At the 10th
Session of the Preparatory Commission for ICC

July 1, 2002

Mr. Chairman,

On this very day, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court enters into force. This signifies that the International Criminal Court is brought into actual operation as a permanent judicial institution.

Great changes have taken place in international relations since the end of the Cold War, which bring about the development of international criminal law. With endeavors of almost half a century, a permanent international criminal court finally comes into being. It has been expected that such an institution would ensure that perpetrators of the most serious international crimes be brought to justice and deter potential perpetrators from committing such crimes. The entry into force of the Rome Statute reflects to a large extent the strong desire to suppress and punish the most serious international crimes and the high aspiration for an international order of equality and rule of law.

The Chinese Government has always understood and supported the establishment of an independent, just, effective and universal international criminal court. The operation of the Court, should it be successful in ensuring that all persons who have committed an international offence of the most serious nature are appropriately punished, would not only help build confidence and trust in international justice, but also contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. It is right on such a perception and belief that the Chinese Government has been actively participated in the whole process for the establishment of the International Criminal Court.