

Statement of Chinese Delegation at the General Debate of the
Review Conference of Rome Statute

Mr. President, Distinguished Representatives,

China is always regardful of the development of international criminal justice, and in favor of setting up an independent, impartial, effective and universal international criminal tribunal as a supplement of national judicial systems to punish the gravest international crimes, promote world peace and realize judicial justice. Therefore, China participated in negotiations of *the Rome Statute* in a positive and constructive manner. After its establishment, China has paid close attention to the Court's work. We have sent observer delegations to all the Assemblies of State Parties and most of the informal consultations, and actively engaged in discussions of the relevant issues in a responsible attitude to make our contributions.

Mr. President, Distinguished Representatives,

It has been more than seven years since the establishment of the ICC. During the past years, the Court has made great progress on institutional building, and entered into full judicial function shortly after its establishment. The Court has also launched investigations and trials of several cases, and made some useful explorations in judicial practice. The Court's activities have helped draw more attention from the international community to

international criminal law.

Mr. President, Distinguished Representatives,

Seven years is not a short period of time for an individual, however, it is only a beginning for a permanent court, and the beginning is always hard. As we are glad to see the progress, we also notice some thought-provoking facts and problems: the Court's handling of certain case has aroused worries and concerns in the world; the cases launched by the Court show some restrictiveness; there is gap between the ideal justice pursued by the Court and the aspiration for resuming peaceful life by the people in conflicting areas. Under such circumstances, how to win world-wide trust and support with objective and impartial behavior and contribute to maintaining peace and justice remains the challenge of the Court.

Mr. President, Distinguished Representatives,

Being the first review conference of the Rome Statute since its entry into force, this Conference provides an important opportunity for the international community to carefully review the Court's previous work and design its future. It will be a crucial phase in the course of development of the ICC. As many other countries, the Chinese Delegation holds high expectations for the Conference. In our view, the foremost task for the Court is to further set up its credibility, obtaining wide trust and

sincere cooperation. From this sense, the Review Conference should give guidance and assistance to the Court to reinforce its ongoing efforts, and increase its representativeness and authority, rather than enlarge its jurisdiction by incorporating the Statue with those amendments having no consensus. We do hope that we will use this Conference to have down-to-earth discussions on how to improve the Court's work under the current framework from the strategic height, so as to enhance international community's confidence of the Court and consolidate the foundation for the Court's sustainable development.

Mr. President, Distinguished Representatives,

From the long-term perspective, the healthy development of the Court does not only rely on a good start, but also on appropriate judicial policies and guidelines. Firstly, as a member of world peace and security system, the Court cannot operate without support of countries and relevant international organizations, and the Court's activities must be taken within the current international law framework with UN Charter as its foundation. We hope, the Court could fully recognize this, handle its relationship with the outside world in a cooperative and balanced attitude, and make contributions to constructing a harmonious world. Secondly, the pursuance of judicial justice by the Court shall not be limited to punishment of particular individuals, it should try to bridge differences, satisfy the core

concern and welfare of conflicting people and make it a task, and have safeguarding the values of peace and security and maintaining harmonious and stable international order as its fundamental requirement. Thirdly, countries are the basic and the most important entities of international relationship and international activities, they shoulder the responsibility to continue social and economic development and satisfy people's needs. Ending impunity and creating harmonious and friendly social environment, in the final analysis, depends on the efforts of countries. The Court should fully respect the rights and authorities of countries, and coordinate with countries' activities. Only by doing so, can the Court deal with the challenges and play its due role in international affairs.

Mr. President, Distinguished Representatives,

We are looking forward to the Court's making gradual progress and development, contributing to People's welfare. China is ready to work with other countries to pool our wisdom and contribute to the continued development of the international criminal justice.

Thank you!