

KIGALI DECLARATION OF FIFTH COLLOQUIUM OF PROSECUTORS OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS

WE THE PROSECUTORS respectively of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) following constructive discussions on the occasion of the 5th Colloquium of International Prosecutors convened in Kigali, Rwanda from the 11th to the 13th of November 2009;

REITERATE

that combating impunity through the international criminal justice process and other means is necessary for the maintenance of national and international peace, the rule of law, respect for human rights and the creation of the necessary environment for the maintenance of stable societies:

NOTE

(i) the contribution of the international tribunals in combating impunity through the accountability of perpetrators responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian and criminal law and (ii) the need for the best practices established by these tribunals to be harnessed for the future;

STRESS

the role of the United Nations in the establishment and maintenance of international tribunals to combat impunity;



AFFIRM

the importance of the development of effective residual mechanisms to ensure that the achievements of the international tribunals are sustained and that the conclusion of the tribunals' mandates does not permit the emergence of an impunity gap;

ACKNOWLEDGE

the significant cooperation of states that have enabled the international tribunals to discharge their respective mandates of combating impunity;

RECOGNIZE

the important role that national as well as regional legal systems and arrangements and civil society can and do play in combating impunity;

WELCOME

the consideration by the United Nations of the important question of the exercise of Universal Jurisdiction by States;

CONDEMN

all violence against non-combatants in situations of conflict, particularly violence against women and children, and call upon all conflicting parties to respect their legal obligations to such persons to prevent such violence and to punish its perpetrators;

URGE

the United Nations to maintain its significant role in the development and maintenance of measures to combat impunity;



CALL UPON ALL STATES

- (i) to ensure that their legal systems and other regional legal arrangements to which they are party have the jurisdiction and the capacity to effectively prosecute international crimes or to extradite suspects of such crimes;
- (ii) to provide full cooperation to all the international criminal tribunals and to execute all requests and orders for assistance from the tribunals including the arrest of all fugitives indicted by them;
- (iii) to seriously consider the adoption of a Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity;
- (iv) that have not yet done so to become party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and cooperate fully with the court in the execution of its mandate.

ADOPTED IN KIGALI, RWANDA

This 13th Day of November 2009

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