

**REPORT ON OPENING ROUNDTABLE:**  
**INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

*The International Criminal Court: Progress to Date and Prospects for the Future*

1. SPEAKERS –

- Moderator: Sharon Williams, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University
- Speakers:
  - Irwin Cotler, Member of Parliament, Mount Royal, Special Advisor on the International Criminal Court.
  - Warren Allmand – President, Rights and Democracy
  - David Chuter – Balkans Secretariat, Ministry of Defence (UK)
  - Darryl Robinson – Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

2. OVERVIEW

The Roundtable provided an excellent opening and set the tone for the high level of discussion for the Conference. The panelists, each from their unique perspectives, commented on the successes and failures of the Rome Conference and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Numerous thoughts and suggestions regarding the ICC's future prospects were offered and discussed.

3. DISCUSSION

Goals of the ICC

The panel was clear in expressing the hope that the Permanent International Criminal Court will be able to overcome the difficulties encountered by the International Ad Hoc Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. The panelists, although varying in their degree of optimism, were unanimous in their hopes that the ICC will be effective in the battle against impunity and in deterring future international war criminals.

Irwin Cotler, commenting on how the creation of an International Criminal Court was overdue, offered an excellent summary of the underlying Nuremberg principles of the ICC. In doing so he identified numerous purposes of the ICC – i.e. to end the culture of impunity, to deter international crimes, to protect international peace and security and to counter the failure of national systems to bring international war criminals to justice. He believes that the ICC also strives to remedy the limitations of the Ad Hoc Tribunals, to provide for enforcement (non-military), to provide redress for victims, to counter historical revisionism, to provide a model of international justice, to protect against gender violence and to protect children in armed conflict.