

resulting Court will be an independent and effective institution, with sufficient safeguards to ensure that its operations will be beyond reproach. It is hoped that a permanent institution will promote stability by ending impunity for the most serious crimes and acting as deterrent to future violators.

Canada has played a leadership role in advocating the creation of an independent and effective ICC. During the preparatory negotiations, Canada served as the Chair of the Like-Minded Group, a group of states with a shared commitment to an independent and effective ICC. During the Conference, Philippe Kirsch (Legal Adviser of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade) served as Chair of the pivotal Committee of the Whole. Minister Axworthy participated in the Conference to emphasize the urgent need for a strong ICC.

The ICC Statute will enter into force once 60 states have ratified it, so those states which have supported the Court must continue to do so by ratifying the Statute and by encouraging others to ratify. In addition, a Preparatory Commission, to be established this autumn by the General Assembly, will work out critical details of the Court's operation, such as the rules of procedure. We must also work to understand and address the concerns of those states who are hesitant about the Court, to ensure the broadest possible support for an institution which is credible and responsible.