United States (observer status)

General Debate

Speaker: Ms. Jane Stromseth, Acting Director, Office of Global Criminal Justice

Mention of the positive developments in the LRA case, in Mali, Cote D'Ivoire, Kosovo, Colombia, Central African Republic and South Sudan.

Although the U.S. has not accepted the Court’s jurisdiction, we continue to work with the ICC in areas of shared interest, on a case-by-case basis and consistent with U.S. laws and policy. The U.S. has expressed its support for each of the investigations and prosecutions currently under way before the Court.

Darfur case: The U.S. strongly believes that the arrest warrants in the ICC’s Darfur situation should be carried out, and that Sudan must comply with its obligations under the Security Council referral.

SGBV: The U.S. is committed to helping bring to justice those responsible for these crimes, including through an Accountability Initiative that includes more than eight million dollars in support for specialized justice sector initiatives in conflict-affected countries.

Syria/Iraq: The U.S. condemns the atrocities committed in Syria and Iraq (both by the Assad regime and ISIL). The U.S. will continue to lead a coalition aimed at ultimately defeating ISIL and will continue to work with others to seek a negotiated political transition in Syria. The veto last year of a proposed referral to the ICC did not take accountability off the table in Syria, rather, it reinforced the need for all of us to lay the groundwork now for future justice efforts, by documenting such crimes and assembling the evidence that will be undoubtedly needed in the years to come.

Kampala Amendments: The U.S. has concerns about the potential activation of the crime of aggression amendments in the face of widespread uncertainty about even such basic issues as whether the Court’s jurisdiction would apply with respect to Rome Statute Parties that do not ratify the amendments.