

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR US RATIFICATION OF ROME CONVENTION CREATING AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Whereas: Following years of negotiations aimed at establishing a permanent international tribunal to punish individuals who commit genocide, war crimes, and other crimes against humanity, the United Nations General Assembly convened a five-week diplomatic conference in Rome in June, 1998 "to finalize and adopt a convention on the establishment of an International Criminal Court" (ICC). On July 17, 1998, the Rome Convention was adopted by a vote of 120 to 7, with 21 countries abstaining. The seven countries that voted against the treaty were Iraq, Israel, Libya, the People's Republic of China, Qatar, the United States, and Yemen; and

Whereas: The treaty entered into force on 1 July 2002. The ICC can only prosecute crimes committed on or after that date. As of April, 2010, 111 countries have ratified or acceded to the Rome Convention, including all of South America, most of Europe, and roughly half the countries in Africa. President Bill Clinton signed the treaty in 2000, but it was never presented to the Senate for ratification. On May 6, 2002 President George Bush took the highly unusual step of revoking the United States' signature on the Treaty, and formally notified the UN Secretary General that the U.S. would not become a member of the Treaty, nor would it recognize the International Criminal Court; and

Whereas: The President has recently indicated that his Administration intends to cooperate with the International Criminal Court;

Be it therefore Resolved, that the National Organization of Legal Services Workers, UAW Local 2320 call upon the President of the United States to sign, and the Senate to ratify, the Rome Convention on the International Criminal Court, *and be it further*

Resolved, that this Resolution be forwarded to the UAW International Union, to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of State, and to appropriate members of Congress.