

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
2002 Distinguished Peace Leadership
Award Honoree
His Excellency Arthur N.R. Robinson

Arthur N.R. Robinson is President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, where he served as Prime Minister from 1986 to 1991. He was elected President in 1997. President Robinson has been in public life for more than 45 years, serving in Parliament and in ministerial posts, as well as helping to found three political parties. His leadership and experience have helped shape Trinidad and Tobago into a leading democratic voice in the Caribbean region.

President Robinson played a key role in the creation of an International Criminal Court (ICC). In 1989, as Prime Minister, he reintroduced the proposal to establish an ICC to the United Nations General Assembly. His initiation of this process led to the signing of the Rome Statute of the ICC in 1998. In April 2002, President Robinson attended a special ceremony at the UN where the final needed ratifications for the treaty were presented. These ratifications allowed the treaty to enter into force in July 2002 by creating a permanent court that will investigate and bring to justice individuals who commit the most serious violations of



international law, namely war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. At the Plenary of the Preparatory Commission of the ICC, held immediately following the ratification ceremony, the Honorable Emma Bonino, member of the European Union, stated "Had it not been for President Robinson in 1989, none of us would have had the courage to continue [working for an ICC]. I thank you on behalf of all of us. I thank you on behalf of the world."

President Robinson's interest in international law and human rights originated while studying law at London University and later at Oxford University. Robinson went on to focus on international law during his career and was a member of the UN Expert Group on Crime and the Abuse of Power. He has spoken and written extensively on issues of international law and was named Honorary Vice President of the International Association of Penal Law, a distinction afforded to a highly select group. He has received the Parliamentarians for Global Action "Defender of Democracy" Award, the Order of the Caribbean Community, and was recently nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.