

## ICC wants AU to join fight against impunity

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THE President of the Assembly of States Parties, Ambassador Tiina Intelmann, on Tuesday held talks with the African Union (AU) Commission's Chairperson, Mr. Jean Ping, and the bloc's legal counsel, Mr. Ben Kioko, on the achievements of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in its first 10 years of existence.



At the parley, Intelmann canvassed the need to strengthen the relationship between the continental body and the ICC to fight against impunity for heinous crimes.

Meanwhile, the ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo will in New York today brief the United Nations Security Council on the situation in Libya.

Florence Olara, Public Information Officer at the office of the prosecutor yesterday informed The Guardian that Moreno-Ocampo would update the council on the ongoing investigation into war crimes, including allegations of rape; the case against Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi and Abdallah Al-Senussi; as well as future investigation.

According to Olara, the report would be the third to the council by the outgoing Argentine prosecutor on Libya, pursuant to Resolution 1970.

In her meetings with Ambassadors of African States, Intelmann recalled the vital contribution of African countries to international criminal law in general and in the establishment of the ICC in particular, noting that 33 of the 121 States Parties to the Rome Statute are African States, making the African Group the most represented regional group.

The ratifications by Tunisia and Cape Verde in 2011, she said, showed the ever-growing support for the ICC among African States.

Intelmann highlighted the significant role that Africa plays within the ICC system and discussed key challenges of the assembly, such as ensuring greater diplomatic and political support for the court, cooperation, complementarity and victims reparations.

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