



Fonds au Profit des Victimes
The Trust Fund for Victims



Report of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims

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Mr President, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor and pleasure to address you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims.

I would like to start by extending warm welcome and congratulations to the newly-elected President of the ASP, His Excellency Mr Sidiki Kaba. All the TFV Board members look forward to working closely with you.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to also express our sincere appreciation to the out-going President, Ambassador Tiina Intelmann. You have been an unwavering and vocal supporter of the TFV throughout your tenure and contributed tremendously around the world to raising awareness of the TFV and its activities. I have an unforgettable recollection of our joint visit to the TFV's projects in

northern Uganda and eastern DRC in September last year. We wish you all the best in your new endeavors.

Mr President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In August this year, the TFV Board formally adopted the TFV Strategic Plan for the period of 2014-2017. This is the second of this kind and this time it is the outcome of a thorough development process. It includes an internal assessment of results achieved under the previous Strategic Plan, an external programme evaluation in 2013 with valuable findings and recommendations, an online stakeholder consultation, and a consultation meeting with States Parties in The Hague in May on the basis of a draft adopted by the Board in March. During this process we have obtained a lot of positive evaluations and useful suggestions.

In this relation we are very grateful to the facilitators of the Hague Working Group on victim-related topics, for their willingness and commitment to feature the TFV strongly in their agenda during the past year. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the TFV Secretariat in developing a rich and robust Strategic Plan that would guide the TFV's activities in the coming years.

The TFV's mission statement in the new Strategic Plan, capturing the dual mandates of the TFV, states that "The TFV responds to the harm resulting from the crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC by ensuring

the rights of victims and their families through the provision of reparations and assistance.”

The TFV’s main strategic goal reflects our understanding that victims, their families and communities, in overcoming the harm they suffered, will need to go through an intense process of transformation, often in the very difficult circumstances of poverty and conflict.

Under the assistance mandate, this requires an integrated approach of providing physical and psychological rehabilitation and material support, which the TFV now has a track record of more than 6 years in offering support to over 110,000 beneficiaries in total in northern Uganda and eastern DRC. The TFV is now actively contemplating to expand its programmes to other ICC situation countries.

A noteworthy feature of the new Strategic Plan is the importance attached to strengthening a collaborative partnership with the Court. The Board strongly appreciates that the TFV’s operations very much depend on the financial and administrative services provided by the Registry and wishes to acknowledge the indispensable support of colleagues in Registry’s various sections.

Compared to the previous Strategic Plan, we have introduced a number of new elements. One of them is the comprehensive risk management framework which was developed with the help of an expert institution.

New fundraising and communication strategies have also been developed to reflect the need to increase the TFV's international and local visibility, and to strengthen the financial basis by increasing voluntary contributions from States Parties as well as private donations from institutional donors in key markets. We firmly believe that the mandates of the TFV to provide forms of reparative justice to victims have the potential to resonate strongly within the international public domain and, as representing the human dimension of international criminal justice, transcend the borders of governmental action.

The Board is proud to note that voluntary contributions by States Parties over the past year is remaining at the same high level as 2013, when close to 4.5 million euros was received. It is the intent and ambition of the Board to continue to promote the greatest possible number of States Parties making voluntary contributions to the TFV. To become a TFV's donor demonstrates the moral and political support to the reparative justice aspect of the Rome Statute system, irrespective of the size of contribution. I am pleased to acknowledge that my country, Japan, has become a new TFV donor this year by contributing around \$600,000 euros.

A considerable part of voluntary contributions is earmarked, in particular to support victims of SGBV (sexual and gender based violence). This is an indication that some of our key donors appreciate that SGBV in conflict is indeed a pervasive and persistent phenomenon in ICC situation countries.

Concrete examples of the TFV's support to SGBV victims under the assistance mandate include: care and rehabilitation of physical injury or mutilation; addressing psychological consequences and mental trauma through both individual counselling and community-based approach; reduction of stigma from families and communities; promotion of mediation and reconciliation; improvement of socio-economic status of victims; education and vocational training; saving and loans schemes; and income generating activities.

As you see from these, the TFV's approach is not only to address the harm suffered by individual victims but also to tackle root causes underlying the occurrence of SGBV and social environments which brought about stigmatization. The support to SGBV victims is also an area in which the TFV can strengthen collaboration with the Office of the Prosecutor from an earlier stage in line with the OTP's policy paper on the subject.

To explain more about the Strategic Plan and the TFV's Winter 2014 programme progress report focusing on SGBV, the TFV will hold a side event co-hosted by the United Kingdom and Finland on Thursday afternoon this week, to which you are all cordially invited.

Let me take this opportunity to state the Board's strong appreciation of the tireless efforts of the Secretariat and of our implementing partners in the field to make the best possible use of limited resources, by implementing innovative and relevant assistance programmes.

Mr President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Being responsive to victims' needs means that the TFV has a responsibility to *meet* the rightful expectations of victims, their families and communities and indeed, to actually *deliver* on the promise of reparative justice. As the TFV was established pursuant to Article 79 of the Rome Statute, its ability and effectiveness in carrying out its mandates are considered to be a matter of concern to all States Parties. Justice for victims is an integral part of the Rome Statute system, together with the fight against impunity and the prevention of the most serious international crimes. While the TFV's assistance programmes are financed mostly through voluntary contributions, the TFV Secretariat's core functions and delivery capacity must remain financially steady and

must not be fluctuated by the level of voluntary contributions of particular year.

With the new Strategic Plan now providing a solid foundation to address challenges facing the TFV in the near future, the two most imminent developments we envisage for the coming months are the implementation of the first reparations orders in the history of the ICC and the expansion of the TFV's assistance programmes to more situation countries. Although the concrete role and responsibility of the TFV in the formation and implantation of reparations orders are yet to be decided, even the most modest prospect dictates us to prepare for the substantial increase of the workload of the TFV's Secretariat, both in The Hague and in the situation countries.

Having in mind the financial constraints facing the States Parties, I would like you to kindly recall that last year I indicated in my report to the Assembly that the TFV would dare not to request an increase in the 2014 budget but would have to do so in 2015.

On behalf of the Board, I therefore respectfully call upon States Parties to accept the very modest request for increase of resource for the TFV Secretariat in 2015. The requested increase is a bare minimum for the TFV to address the developing circumstances, and its necessity has

already been carefully scrutinized in several steps during the last several months.

I trust that the States Parties, recalling the promises made in Rome to victims of the most serious international crimes, will continue to provide moral, political, and financial support to the TFV, and allow it to accomplish its mandates in a real and meaningful manner. The TFV Board and the Secretariat remain fully committed to continue their best efforts to bring justice to victims, regain their dignity, and renew their hope for life.

Thank you.

Motoo Noguchi

Chair of the Board of Directors

Trust Fund for Victims

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