



Cour
Pénale
Internationale
International
Criminal
Court

Le Greffier
The Registrar

Mr Peter Lewis
Registrar, International Criminal Court

Plenary Session on the Review of the Court

4 December 2019, 11:00-13:00
World Forum, The Hague

Mr President of the Assembly of States Parties,
Mr President of the Court,
Madam Prosecutor,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to add a few more words from the perspective of the Registry of the Court regarding the crucial matter that concerns us today, and that is the review of the Rome Statute of the ICC.

The Court welcomes this initiative of our States Parties, geared at strengthening the institution that you have created more than 20 years ago, and at enhancing its capacity, within the system created by the Rome Statute, to effectively and efficiently implement its mandate and produce concrete and durable results as a court of justice.

It is my strong belief that, after more than a decade of operations, it is sound and healthy for any organization to undergo an in-depth and comprehensive process of review of the way it has been operating and conducting its activities. This is even more so considering the crucial mandate this Court has, and when noting the serious and justified expectations various stakeholders have of our work.

As I started my mandate as Registrar in early 2018, and after a period of assessment of our work and operations within the Registry, I decided that it was necessary to adopt the first Registry's Strategic Plan, and to ensure it would be aligned with the Court's Strategic Plan, and adequately complement the OTP Strategic Plan. I did this with a view to strengthen our managerial and operational capacity, but also to bring forth efficiencies and rebuild a relationship of trust between us, as service providers and administrators of the Court, and a wide range of stakeholders, starting with States.

The main objective of the Registry's Strategic Plan is to bring forth the necessary steps to undergo a serious and sustainable culture change in the way we conduct our mandate and deliver our services; applying sound budgetary discipline, clarifying lines of accountability, and delivering services across the Court efficiently and with a high degree of quality, thus contributing to an overall improvement of the Court's administration and deliverables as a court of justice.

We focused in our Strategy in identifying three strategic priorities, geared towards a plan of continuous improvement of our work processes and policies; an increased engagement with staff, enhancing their involvement and ownership in the implementation of our mandate; and a specific priority on a more balance geographical representation and gender balance.

In all these areas, we have identified concrete and specific performance indicators, and we have already started to put in place measures in these areas.

I believe there is much we can achieve by joining our efforts, all of us present in this room today, in successfully carrying forward this review process; the Registry welcomes the opportunity to engage with the independent experts you will appoint for the start of this process next year, and we will ensure our doors are open and our staff are ready to engage with them and provide them with the information they will need to conduct their work.

Beyond the important work that these experts will do in the three cluster areas identified, we also very much value the importance of the review process to also look more comprehensively into the Rome Statute system as a whole, and consider critical matters for the success of the work of the Court, such as cooperation, non cooperation, complementarity and the relationship between national jurisdictions and the Court, and geographical representation and gender balance.

Indeed, we see the review process that you have called for this year, and that we have also started to contribute to with our Strategic Plan, as going beyond 2020 and the work of the independent experts. It will, it must, remain a constant and serious effort from all parts, if we are to do justice to the hopes vested in this organization and in the system of justice the Rome Statute created.

We have hope that these parallel and complementary efforts to strengthen our mandate, looking into all the roles and actors that can have a positive impact on the end result, will lead us to what we all want to see: stronger, more efficient, more legitimate international criminal court, able to operate in a system that will provide it with the required strong and consistent support to ensure it can effectively implement its mandate as a court of last result.

Thank you