

## Guidelines on media access at the twentieth session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

World Forum Convention Center, The Hague  
6 – 11 December 2021

### Preamble

The following guidelines between the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties (SASP) and the media accredited to cover the twentieth session of the Assembly of State Parties (ASP) governs media access at the twentieth session, to be held from 6 to 11 December 2021. During times of heightened security, additional restrictions may apply.

The purpose of this guidelines is to grant as much access as possible to members of the press while safeguarding the Assembly premises (World Forum Convention Center, *hereafter*: Assembly premises) and ensuring the safety, security and comfort of all of its occupants: staff, delegates and press alike.

Journalists who are granted access to the Assembly premises must abide by the policies in place. Those, if any, who may violate the ground rules of wider access will risk a withdrawal of their accreditation.

### 1. Media access in general

- a. Journalists will be required to read these guidelines and adhere to them.
- b. All journalists accessing the Assembly premises must comply with all COVID-19 health and safety regulations in place, including wearing protective masks, keeping 1.5 meter distancing between representatives of different media organizations, and presenting proof of vaccination, recovery certificate or a valid negative test.
- c. All journalists accessing the Assembly premises with equipment must pass through security screening.
- d. All camera crews accessing the Assembly premises with equipment must use this entrance between 08:00 and 09:00 hours daily.
- e. Journalists may access authorized areas of the Assembly premises, escorted by a member of the SASP, after they and their equipment have passed through security screening, unless the International Criminal Court (ICC) Security has declared a heightened period of security.
- f. Journalists are not permitted to sign in guests.
- g. Journalists may access only through the entrance between 08:00 and 18:00 hours.
- h. Seats will be provided for journalists at the balcony of the King Willem Alexander conference room.
- i. Due to limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, side events, i.e events not part of the official Assembly meetings, will not take place within the Assembly premises. Online access to side events would need to be discussed directly with the respective organizer of the side event.

## **2. Media access to restricted areas**

- a. All journalists have access to the Ground Floor area in front of the conference rooms South America, Central America and North America **with an escort from the SASP.**
- b. Journalists may interview officials on the ground floor of the Assembly premises if they have a scheduled appointment. However, broadcast correspondents must notify the SASP prior to the interview.
- c. Broadcast correspondents conducting TV “stand-ups” outside, yet within the Assembly premises, should notify the SASP, who will notify ICC Security prior to the event; in case this is not feasible, the correspondents must notify the ICC Security directly.
- d. The media may not congregate or conduct interviews at the Delegates’ Entrance (the west hallway to the King Willem Alexander between conference rooms Africa, Antarctica and Asia).
- e. All accredited journalists may access the area between conference rooms South and Central America (*hereafter*: “the Canal”) without an escort.
- f. Journalists may move around in the Canal area and conduct interviews.
- g. All media, in particular TV camera crews, must remain in the designated **balcony area of the King Willem Alexander** at all times when the Assembly is in session. This location is also reserved for print media. However, media will have escorted access to the extended area in front of conference rooms South America, Central America and North America.
- h. Accredited media may conduct interviews in the above mentioned areas. On-the-record interviews should be conducted in the Canal area. Journalists may move between the areas outside conference rooms South America, Central America and North America when the Assembly is in session. Under no circumstances should the staircases and the hallway between conference rooms Africa, Antarctica and Asia leading to the King Willem Alexander be blocked.
- i. Only hand-held voice recorders may be used for interviews. If the delegate wishes to do a TV interview, it should take place in the Canal area with SASP approval and escort.
- j. The hallway in front of conference rooms Africa, Antarctica and Asia leading to the King Willem Alexander, is a restricted area, except after the meetings have ended.

## **3. General access for TV crews**

- a. All media are permitted access to open meetings in designated areas within the King Willem Alexander, i.e. between the podium and conference room North America, with time restrictions to broadcast media. Access during the plenaries with elections via secret ballot will be limited to the announcement of the results of the respective ballot.
- b. TV correspondents and their crew are permitted to film and interview diplomats and officials, with their consent, in designated areas of general media access located in the Canal area.
- c. All other areas **will require a SASP escort.** TV crews will only be permitted after prior consultation with the SASP who will provide an escort at all times.

## **4. Photo ops**

Photo ops are limited to one minute maximum before the plenary sessions commence. If a large presence of visual media is present, they will be taken in two batches: first, the photographers, to

be followed by the TV camera crew, or vice versa. SASP personnel will always be present at the photo ops. No questions are permitted during these photo ops.

#### **5. Stakeout location**

The Canal area between conference rooms South and Central America.

#### **6. Media services and press kit**

For general information, provisional programme of work of the twentieth session, statements, speeches and press releases please refer to the website of the Assembly:

[https://asp.icc-cpi.int/EN\\_Menu/asp/sessions/documentation/20th%20session/pages/default.aspx](https://asp.icc-cpi.int/EN_Menu/asp/sessions/documentation/20th%20session/pages/default.aspx).

#### **7. Areas open to all visual media:**

Plenary meetings in designated areas (no flash permitted during meetings). However, according to rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the Assembly may decide that if exceptional circumstances arise, its meetings may be held in private.

#### **8. Areas closed to all visual media:**

All media are only allowed to attend plenary meetings in the King Willem Alexander conference room. All other rooms are closed to all media.

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