



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

Third meeting

The Hague

3 June 2016

Agenda and decisions

The meeting was chaired by the President of the Assembly, H.E. Mr. Sidiki Kaba (Senegal)

1. Activities of the President

The President informed the Bureau that he had participated in the Conference held in Dakar on Complementarity, the Habré Trial and the Evolution of Universal Jurisdiction, organized by Africa Legal Aid (AFLA), from 30 May to 1 June 2016. The opening of the conference had coincided with the verdict in the Habré trial. The President highlighted the importance of this verdict for international criminal justice, and emphasized that the victims had finally been rendered justice, thanks to the joint commitment of the African Union and Senegal to fight impunity for atrocity crimes.

The President informed the Bureau that on 2 June 2016, he had delivered a message at the welcoming ceremony organized by the Court for the Republic of El Salvador, and that he had also taken advantage of his visit to The Hague to meet with various ambassadors of States Parties as well as with senior officials of the Court, in particular, the President.

The President recalled that he would be chairing a meeting of the Bureau in New York on 6 June 2016, and that he also intended to take the opportunity to engage in some bilateral meetings.

With regard to the Day of International Criminal Justice, the President informed the Bureau that a commemoration was being organized in The Hague on 7 July 2016 by the facilitator on Strategic Planning, Ambassador Eduardo Rodríguez (Bolivia). The President welcomed this initiative and that of other supporters of international criminal justice who were organizing similar events around the world. In this connection, the President informed the Bureau that Senegal would be holding a seminar on the topic of “International Criminal Justice against sexual and gender-based crimes” on 16 July 2016, in Dakar, with around 150 participants, including representatives of States Parties, experts, academics, judges, lawyers, and members of civil society from various countries and institutions.

The President further stated his intention to visit several States to meet with senior Government officials to discuss topics such as complementarity, cooperation and universality. He would also seize the occasion of the UN General Assembly’s ministerial week in the fall of 2016 to take part in bilateral meetings. In addition, the President informed the Bureau of his intention to visit various projects of the Trust Fund for Victims.

2. Mandates from the Assembly

The Bureau continued its review of the mandates given to it by the Assembly at its fourteenth session. In this connection, the Bureau was informed that the Advisory Committee on Nominations had decided to hold a meeting at the seat of the Court on 26 September 2016, to respond to the request from the Assembly concerning the review of the experience of the Committee.¹ The Bureau requested the Secretariat to support the organization of this meeting.

3. Establishment of a working group on the application and implementation of Articles 97 and 98 of the Rome Statute

The Bureau considered the request of South Africa to establish a working group on the application and implementation of Articles 97 and 98 of the Rome Statute, as set out in its note verbale No. 18/2016, dated 23 May 2016.

The Bureau decided to establish a working group of the Bureau, chaired by Ambassador María Teresa Infante Caffi (Chile), to examine the application of Article 97, in close consultation with the Court. In performing this task the judicial independence of the Court will be fully observed.

The Bureau also considered South Africa's request to establish a working group to clarify the relationship between articles 27 and 98 of the Statute. However, there was no consensus on establishing such a working group.

The Bureau reaffirmed the importance of preserving the independence of the Court and the integrity of the Rome Statute and of avoiding any interference in the work of the Court.

4. Reform of working methods

Based on resolution ICC- ASP/14/Res.4 and numerous discussions that took place in the Bureau, Vice-President Alvaro Moerzinger introduced the paper "Suggestions for the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court", dated 4 May 2016. The Bureau considered it appropriate that the Vice-President carry out consultations involving States Parties with the aim of presenting, to a forthcoming Bureau meeting, a paper consolidating initiatives which would enable the Bureau, where appropriate, or the Assembly, to take corresponding decisions.

5. Other matters

a) Independent Oversight Mechanism

Mr. Ian Fuller, Head of the Independent Oversight Mechanism (IOM), gave an oral presentation to the Bureau on the recent activities of his office. Some members expressed their interest in the work of the IOM and ensured Mr. Fuller of the Bureau's support in the fulfillment of his important duties. However, some members requested that the reports of the Head of the IOM to the Bureau be submitted in a written form.

¹ ICC-ASP/14/Res.4, annex I, para. 5 (b).