



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

Fourth meeting

New York

6 June 2016

Agenda and decisions

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

1. Fifteenth session of the Assembly

a) Draft provisional agenda

The Bureau continued its consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Assembly, dated 17 February 2016 and decided to give it further consideration at its next meeting.

b) Elections of six members of the Committee on Budget and Finance: status of nominations

Recalling that the nomination period for members of the Committee on Budget and Finance had opened on 18 May and would run to 9 August 2016, the President informed the Bureau that Mr. Urmet Lee (Estonia) had been nominated for election as a member of the Committee. Furthermore, the Bureau was informed that the nominations of Mr. Gerd Saupe (Germany) and Ms. Helen Louise Warren (United Kingdom) for re-election were forthcoming. The President recalled that all nominations would be posted on the webpage of the Assembly.¹

2. Activities of the President

The President informed the Bureau of his participation in a conference dedicated to the topic of complementarity, the Habré Trial and the evolution of universal jurisdiction, organized by Africa Legal Aid (AFLA), in Dakar, Senegal, from 30 May to 1 June 2016. The conference coincided with the verdict in the Habré trial. The President highlighted the importance of this verdict for international criminal justice and emphasized that justice was finally brought to the victims, thanks to the joint commitment of the African Union and Senegal to fight impunity for atrocity crimes.

On 2 June 2016, the President attended the welcoming ceremony of the Republic of El Salvador at the Court, delivering a congratulatory statement and calling on States Parties to continue their efforts to promote universality of the Rome Statute in their respective regions.

¹ https://asp.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/asp/elections/committee%20on%20budget%20and%20finance/2016/Pages/2016-CBF-Nomination.aspx

The President also noted that he had chaired the third meeting of the Bureau on 2 June 2016 in The Hague and that he would be meeting with the Group of African States Parties during his visit to New York.

On the occasion of the Day of International Criminal Justice, the President indicated that on 16 July 2016 in Dakar, Senegal intends to organize a conference on international criminal justice, focusing on sexual and gender-based crimes, with the participation of experts, academics, judges, lawyers and members of civil society from various countries.

The President further expressed that he plans to visit several States to meet with high-level authorities to discuss topics such as complementarity, cooperation and universality. He would use the opportunity of the United Nations General Assembly's ministerial week in the fall 2016 to meet with different representatives. The President also informed the Bureau of his intention to visit different field offices of the Trust Fund for Victims.

Finally, the President would also plan to chair meetings in New York in July and in September.

3. Activities of the United Nations Security Council

The United Kingdom briefed the Bureau on activities of the United Nations Security Council recalling preambular paragraph 11 of resolution 2279 (2016) on Burundi, adopted on 1 April, and operative paragraph 8 of resolution 2284 (2016) on Côte d'Ivoire, adopted on 28 April.

The United Kingdom also referred to two other resolutions, which do not reference the Court specifically but which underline the role of international courts and tribunals: resolution 2286 (2016) on medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties and resolution 2290 (2016) on South Sudan.

Lastly, the United Kingdom informed the Bureau that the meeting of the Security Council with the Open-Ended Ministerial Committee of the African Union on the International Criminal Court, which was scheduled to take place on 9 June 2016, had been postponed until sometime in July.

4. Mandates of the Assembly of States Parties

At the request of a Bureau member, the Bureau decided to include the agenda item "Mandates of the Assembly of States Parties" for consideration at its fourth meeting. Under this agenda item, some queries were posed about the decision taken at the third meeting of the Bureau on 3 June 2016 in The Hague regarding the establishment of a working group of the Bureau to consider the application of article 97.

In this connection, the Bureau was informed that at the 3 June meeting in The Hague its members had 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. The Bureau had also decided to establish a working group of the Bureau, and not a subsidiary body of the Assembly.

The Secretariat clarified that the documentation submitted for consideration by the Bureau at its third meeting included an informal paper, dated 2 May 2016, which contained extracts of the *Official Records of the Assembly*, related to mandates and other decisions replicated from that publication. The Secretariat had been preparing and updating that informal paper in recent years in order to assist the work of Bureau members.

The Secretariat was requested to ensure that all States Parties receive the emails of documentation sent to Bureau members.

5. Other matters

a) Briefing by the Chair of the Working Group on Amendments

The Bureau was briefed by the Chairperson of the Working Group on Amendments, Ambassador May-Elin Stener (Norway). The Working Group held three meetings thus far and will continue to discuss amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Evidence concerning the language cluster,² hoping to get results within the next few months. Furthermore, the Chairperson indicated that Belgium had also proposed amendments to article 8 of the Rome Statute, which will be further discussed during the 27 June 2016 meeting with the aim of making a recommendation thereon to the Assembly at its fifteenth session.

b) Arrears

Concerning the arrears, the President indicated that as at 1 June 2016, 12 States were in arrears, and were subject to article 112, paragraph 8. The outstanding contributions of those States Parties amount to €5,061,789. In this connection, the President appealed to all States Parties which had not yet done so to settle their accounts as soon as possible so that the Court has the requisite resources to carry out its work.

c) New York post under major programme IV

The point was made that the vacancy of the Special Assistant under major programme IV should be filled as soon as possible so as to provide the necessary support in New York to the Office of the President of the Assembly as well as to the New York Working Group facilitators.

² The “language cluster” refers to the recommendations to amend rule 76(3), rule 101(3) and rule 144(2)(b) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.