

Day of International Criminal Justice
**Panel discussion on “Fair trial at the International Criminal Court in a confluence of
legal traditions”**
International Criminal Court, The Hague
12 July 2017

I. Objectives and background

To celebrate the Day of International Criminal Justice, this panel discussion has been organised to explore the nature of the International Criminal Court’s legal system and how the fairness of trials before the Court is ensured within this hybrid system. Accordingly, the event aims at enhancing knowledge of the Court’s hybrid legal system, and emphasising the importance of ensuring fair trials at the Court.

II. Participants

Following a keynote address by Her Excellency Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, President of the Court, the discussion, and interactive dialogue thereafter, will be moderated by His Excellency, Mr. Paul Wilke, Permanent representative of the Netherlands to the ICC. The panel will comprise expert representatives of the Office of the Prosecutor, the ICC Bar Association, and civil society. These panellists bring with them extensive knowledge of the Court’s unique hybrid legal system and will provide insight into the experiences faced by the Court’s various stakeholders during legal proceedings. His Excellency Ambassador Sergio Ugalde (Costa Rica), Vice-President of the Assembly of States Parties and Coordinator of The Hague Working Group of the Bureau of the Assembly, will deliver a closing address.

III. Issues under discussion

The panellists will examine a number of important issues, including the hybrid nature of the Court’s legal system, how the Court ensures fair trials in the context of this system and the impact of the hybrid system on trials conducted by the Court from the perspective of the various parties to its proceedings.

Given the objectives of the panel discussion, the subject matter will be discussed in an accessible, non-technical manner to invite participation from a wide audience. The discussion will focus on general principle matters that arise in the context of the Court’s legal system, rather than highlight case-specific issues currently before the Court.
