

Stocktaking of International Criminal Justice

The impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and affected communities

Template

1. Format of the debate:

Panel discussion on the impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and affected communities: the role of outreach, victim's participation, reparations, and the Trust Fund for Victims in creating the impact

2. Names of keynote speaker, panelists and moderator:

Keynote speaker: Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative for the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Children and Armed Conflict

Moderator and Rapporteur: Mr. Eric Stover, Director of the Human Rights Center of the University of Berkeley, author of numerous books on war crimes and international criminal justice

Panelists:

Ms. Justine Masika Bihamba, co-founder and coordinator of Synergie des femmes pour les Victimes des violences Sexuelles – SFVS, an umbrella organization of many local initiatives

Ms. Elisabeth Rehn, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims

Ms. Carla Ferstman, Director of Redress, an international human rights organization with a mandate to assist victims of torture and related international crimes to obtain justice

Mr. David Tolbert, President of the ICTJ (International Center for Transitional Justice)

Ms. Binta Mansaray, Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

Ms. Silvana Arbia, Registrar of the International Criminal Court

3. Tentative program of work:

Wednesday, 2 June 2010

10:00-10:05 Introduction by focal points

10:05-10:20 Keynote speech

10:20-10:25 Short film

10:25-11:45 Panel Discussion

11:45-12:45 Dialogue with the audience

12:45-13:00 Conclusions

13:00-15:00 Side-event on the Trust Fund for Victims following the panel discussion, sponsored by Chile and Finland (organized by the Trust Fund for Victims)

4. Expected outcomes:

Declaration (as part of the wider declaration on the Review Conference)

Resolution

Pledges (implementing national measures and legislation relevant to victims/witnesses)

Increased financial support for the Trust Fund for Victims

A final report with compilation of conclusions, contributions and relevant documentation, covering also to the extent possible relevant side-events that take place during the Review Conference.

5. Background materials:

Report of the Bureau on stocktaking: The impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and affected communities (ICC-ASP/8/49)

The impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and affected communities – Discussion paper (dated 28 April 2010)

6. Additional information: List of side-events, activities and publications

For the purpose of comprehensiveness, the focal points wish to share the relevant events, activities and publications for the stock-taking exercise that they have been informed of. The focal points will not have any organizational role in these events, but will try to collect in the final report any possible conclusions these events might bring to the stocktaking exercise.

Events during Review Conference

Events planned to be organized **at the Conference building:**

- Open Society Initiative: Outreach panel;
- Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC): Civil society taking stock: Impact of the Rome Statute on Victims and Affected Communities;
- International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ): Taking stock of the impact of the ICC in Kenya, Uganda, the DRC, Sudan and Colombia;
- Uganda Coalition for the International Criminal Court (UCICC)/No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ)/ Hurinet: briefing on pre-Conference missions to Uganda;
- Victims' Rights Working Group (VRWG) event on victims' participation; and
- International Refugee Rights' Initiative: panel on intermediaries.

Events planned to be organized **at the People's Space**, a forum at the Review Conference venue for civil society:

- The VRWG: a commemoration event prior to the start of the RC;

- The VRWG: an expert meeting on massive trauma; and
- The Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice: side event “Women’s Court”, bringing women’s rights and peace activists from the situation countries.

Pre-Review Conference activities

VRWG’s questionnaire as part of outreach and sensitization initiatives for the Review Conference by Uganda Victims Foundation (UVF), LIPADHO¹ (an NGO based in the DRC, in Ituri and North Kivu); and womens’ organizations in the eastern DRC; a UVF/REDRESS workshop was held in February in Lira, northern Uganda, bringing members in 14 districts of the north to discuss inter alia, the questionnaire (with participation of NGOs from the DRC);

HURINET/UCICC² and NPWJ, visits by delegates of States Parties to Uganda to meet with victims, affected communities and other relevant stakeholders;

The Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice in cooperation with the Nobel Women's Initiative, convenes in April an “International Gender Justice Dialogue” with 80-90 gender experts, feminist legal theorists and practitioners, peace mediators, jurists, women’s rights advocates, political leaders, and other key actors. Participants will identify the strategic directions required for advancing gender justice through implementation and use of the Rome Statute and the Court in preparation for the Review Conference; and

HURINET/UCICC “Pre”-Review Conference bringing civil society together, with working groups on each of the stocktaking topics, in the week before the Review Conference.

Additional written contributions/background papers

- Report of the activities of the Trust Fund for Victims;
- Longitudinal Study on the Lessons Learned on the impact of the Trust Fund for Victims;
- UVF report following the 15-17 February workshop on the Impact of the Court on victims and affected communities;
- VRWG substantive paper on the impact of the Court on victims and affected communities, following the results of the questionnaire;
- Eventual REDRESS/UVF paper on impact of the Court on the Ugandan peace process and corresponding legislation, e.g. International Crimes Bill, Reconciliation Bill;
- LIPADHO report/paper on the impact of the Court on victims and affected communities in eastern DRC HURINET/UCICC and NPWJ: Report on visits by State delegates to Uganda;
- Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF) report: the DRC and the Rome Statute System: 7 years after ratification: the expectations and perceptions of Congolese victims who had sought to participate in criminal proceedings before the national courts and the ICC;
- ICTJ briefing paper on case studies on the ICC’s impact on Kenya, Uganda, the DRC, Sudan and Colombia, and possibly a briefing paper on reparations and the ICC;

¹ La Ligue pour la Paix et les Droits de l'Homme.

² Human Rights Network/Uganda Coalition for the International Criminal Court.

- Paper, submitted by the Court, dated 26 April 2010, entitled “Turning the Lens Victims and Affected Communities on the Court and the Rome Statute System”;
- Paper, submitted by the Registry, dated 26 April 2010, entitled “Registry and Trust Fund for Victims Fact Sheet”,³ and
- Paper entitled “Policy Paper on Victims’ Participation”, submitted by the Office of the Prosecutor.

³ The Court indicated that it would update the fact sheet.