

**SPEECH BY MEDARD RWELAMIRA**

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**SECRETARIAT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES**

**Information session for diplomatic representations**

Brussels, 8 June 2005

Mr. President,  
Mr. Deputy-Prosecutor,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to be with you in order to convey some of the most important developments regarding States and the Court. I will limit myself to some highlights since most of the information is reproduced in the information package you have received.

### **Recent ratifications**

First, we wish to welcome the 98th and 99th State Parties, Kenya and the Dominican Republic, respectively, as well as the recent ratifications to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Court by Andorra, Belgium, and Sweden.

### **Fourth session of the Assembly**

Invitations to the fourth session of the Assembly, to be held in The Hague, from 28 November to 3 December 2005, and to the resumed session, scheduled in New York on 26 and 27 January 2006, were sent to all States on 18 March 2005. In light of the work to be carried out by the Assembly, this fourth session will last a total of six days, up to and including Saturday, 3 December. The two day resumed fourth session in New York will be devoted to the election of judges and of members of the Committee on Budget and Finance.

The nomination period for both judges and members of the CBF shall run from 18 July to 9 October 2005. Nominations received before or after the

nomination period will not be considered. Letters regarding the nomination period for candidates for judges and CBF members were sent to all States on 12 April and 18 March, respectively.

The Secretariat of the Assembly would like to remind States to bear in mind the precise requirements regarding nominations for judges set out in the Rome Statute and in the relevant resolution of the Assembly. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the resolution on the procedure for the nomination and election of judges, the Secretariat included in the aforementioned letter specific information regarding the application of all minimum voting requirements in the elections.

The Secretariat wishes to remind States Parties that nominations for members of the CBF should also fulfill the requirements set out in the relevant resolutions of the Assembly.

Nominations for judges and members of the CBF should be communicated through the diplomatic channel to the Director of the Secretariat, if feasible, accompanied by digital versions of the nominations and other supporting documentation. Such nominations and the accompanying statements shall be placed on the Internet website of the Court.

As regards the election of the two Vice-Presidents and 18 members of the Bureau, consultations may have to be made by States Parties in advance of the opening of the fourth session of the Assembly, bearing in mind the requirements of article 112, paragraph 3 (b) of the Rome Statute and the decision taken by the

Assembly at its third session.<sup>1</sup> This decision, which can be found in paragraph 43 of the Official Records of the third session, reads as follows:

“43. ... the Assembly agreed on the following composition of the Bureau:

- Group of Western European and Other States and Group of African States: 5 seats each;
- Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and Group of Eastern European States: 4 seats each;
- Group of Asian States: 3 seats, on the understanding that: (a) the next Chair of the Credentials Committee would be elected from a State Party that belonged to the Asian Group and was not a Bureau member; and (b) the Bureau would extend to her/him a standing invitation to participate in Bureau meetings without the right to vote.”

### **Committee on Budget and Finance**

At its fifth session, which shall take place from 10-14 October 2005, the Committee on Budget and Finance would consider, inter alia, the proposed programme budget for 2006.

The Court has committed itself to submitting the proposed programme budget for 2006 to the Secretariat by beginning of July 2005. On the basis of this

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Third session, The Hague, 6-10 September 2004*, part I, B. 13, para. 43.

commitment, the proposed budget would be sent to the CBF and to States by the end of August.

### **Bureau Working Groups**

The Bureau of the Assembly established two Working Groups, based in The Hague and New York. The facilitators of the Working Group in New York have held meetings to consider: 1) the relationship with the United Nations, particularly the matter of an ICC liaison office at the United Nations; 2) the arrears of States Parties and, 3) the draft Regulations of the Trust Fund for Victims.

For its part, the Working Group in The Hague has held two meetings and considered: 1) the permanent premises of the Court and 2) the oral report of the Convenor of the Task Force on the draft Code of Professional Conduct for counsel.

A review of the entire Code is expected to be finalized by the Task Force by the end of June; the result of the work of The Hague Working Group would then be submitted to the Bureau.

As regards the issue of permanent premises of the Court, at its second meeting The Hague Working Group heard presentations by the Court of two reports: a report on Housing Options and one on a Project Presentation; furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands made a presentation on financing models. A similar presentation shall be made on 16 June to the New York Group of Friends of the Court and to the Bureau.

## **Inter-sessional meeting on the crime of aggression**

Finally, we wish to remind you that the second inter-sessional meeting of the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression will take place from 13-15 June 2005 in Princeton.

Thank you.

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*Official Records of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Third session, The Hague, 6-10 September 2004, part I, B. 13, para. 43.*