

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

**Sixth Diplomatic Briefing
of the International Criminal Court**

Compilation of Statements

Check Against Delivery

The Hague, 23 March 2006

Philippe Kirsch, President

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the Sixth Diplomatic Briefing of the International Criminal Court – the first diplomatic briefing in the recently opened Press Briefing Room. As you can see, we have limited space, and so I thank you for understanding our need to limit the number of places per delegation.

We have organised these briefings with a view to updating States with the latest information between the sessions of the Assembly of States Parties, and in order to offer you the possibility of communicating directly with the senior management of the Court. It is important for us to maintain and build upon this communication. As we have previously indicated, we are also open to suggestions to improve the format of our communication, particularly in regard to the briefings and information packages you received earlier this week. The packages provide you with an update on the Court in general and on recent developments affecting its different organs – the Presidency and Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor, the Registry and the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties. This is why I will limit my comments to those subjects in which the States have shown a particular interest.

I would, however, first like to recall that the International Criminal Court has reached a new phase in its operations. On Monday, 17 March, Pre-Trial Chamber I unsealed the warrant of arrest issued against Thomas Lubanga Dyilo for the alleged commission of crimes on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo since July 2002. That same day, Mr Lubanga was arrested and placed in the Court's custody. Mr Lubanga must answer charges of war crimes, namely of enlisting and conscripting children under the age of fifteen and using them to participate actively in hostilities. During the first appearance of Mr Lubanga on 20 March, Pre-Trial Chamber I set 27 June 2006 as the date for the confirmation of charges, a date which is subject to developments in judicial proceedings. The Prosecutor and the Registrar will provide you with further details in this regard.

Thanks to the cooperation received during the arrest and transfer of Mr Lubanga, the Court will be able to start judicial proceedings. The Court is fully prepared for this phase of its activities. I should add that five warrants of arrest have also been issued for crimes committed in Uganda since 2002. The persons named in these warrants are still at large and the Court will need cooperation for their arrest and surrender into its custody in order to be able to initiate judicial proceedings.

The volume of the Court's activities is constantly increasing, and parallel to that the need for support for its activities. My colleagues and I have stated on many occasions that in order to conduct proceedings that are just, efficient and as expeditious as possible, the Court needs the effective support of States, international organisations and civil society. Having said that, we recognise that such support is necessarily dependent to a large extent on a good understanding of the activities, objectives and needs of the Court. We are aware of the importance of communication on our main activities as a means of encouraging such support.

I would, therefore, like to give you a brief overview of the direction the Court is currently taking, particularly through the strategic plan we are developing and, in this context, the development and implementation of an integrated strategy for external relations and public information, which also extends to the situations in the field. The Prosecutor will discuss the external communication activities of his Office and the Registrar will provide you with information concerning the activities of the Registry

in this field. In the absence of Medard Rwelamira, Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties, Renan Villacis will give you a brief update on the activities of the Secretariat of the ASP.

As welcomed by the Assembly of States Parties, the Court is preparing a set of overarching objectives and expected accomplishments to achieve the aims of the Rome Statute. To this end, we are developing a strategic plan. The plan will set out what the Court wants to achieve in all areas of its activities. The plan is an umbrella to guide the whole Court. It is intended to cover the entire range of the Court's activities. It will also be supplemented by organ-specific strategies as needed. The plan is intended to serve the purposes of: providing a clear direction for the Court; coordinating among the organs; and improving our performance.

The Court's senior management has adopted a first version of the plan. It includes a ten year perspective, but focuses on the next three years. The final plan will likely center around the following main themes: The core activities of the Court: i.e. investigations, prosecutions and trials; The importance of support and cooperation; and Our management processes and staff.

We will discuss the current stage of our work with the Committee on Budget and Finance in April. After the CBF meeting, we will begin discussions with other external actors, including representatives of States as well as the Hague Working Group. The strategic plan will be an essential part of our discussions about the Court. The final plan will be made available in advance of the next Assembly of States Parties.

One part of the strategic planning process is the development of a Court Capacity Model. The Model is a simulation tool, to assist in planning; The Model correlates the human resources needs with the amount of work that can be achieved by the Court. For example, it may indicate the approximate number of staff needed to conduct a certain number of investigations or trials. It can also be used in the reverse, to identify approximately how many investigations or trials the Court can conduct with a fixed number of staff.

Use of the Model may help the Court in three ways: First, by running different simulations, the Model may provide a number of alternatives to facilitate decision-making about the Court's overall size. Second, it may be used to identify and eliminate some inefficiencies in the Court's operations. Third, the approach behind the Model will assist the Court in justifying budget requests and clarifying the effect of budgetary changes on the Court's ability to achieve intended results.

The Court Capacity Model is a living tool - It will be continually updated and refined based on new information. A final report on the Court Capacity Model will be presented to the Assembly of States Parties.

In the context of our strategic planning, we have heard how much importance you attach to the Court's communications, particularly in situations where the Court is active.

We are in full agreement - effective external communications is vital to the performance of the Court's core functions. As a priority, the Court developed an integrated strategy on external relations, public information and outreach in parallel with its work on the strategic plan. I will return to the definition of these areas of activity in just a moment. The first version was completed in June of last year.

The integrated strategy sets out a basic platform for the Court's external communications activities. It is supplemented by strategies for specific situations and projects. The strategy also is an evolving product to be evaluated and refined in light of experience and lessons learned. We have received comments from various communications experts and will be revising the strategy in light of comments and experiences over the last year.

The strategy canvasses the context in which we carry out our activities including constraints and challenges, and strengths and opportunities. It also articulates basic messages and guidelines in formulating messages, so that we can be as clear and focused as possible in our communication.

As defined in the strategy, the Court's communication efforts advance its overall objectives in a number of ways: Building and maintaining cooperation and support for the activities of the Court. Making public the Court's judicial activities, which is integral to delivering public and transparent justice. Increasing the broader impact of the Court, contributing to lasting respect for and enforcement of international justice.

We have chosen to take an *integrated* approach to what we now call collectively 'external communications' - in order to maximize the Court's coherence and effectiveness in its contact with the outside world.

We created a standing group on external communications. Since last summer, the external communications group has met on average twice a week. It is responsible for implementing and revising the strategy, coordinating messages and activities, and developing subsidiary instruments.

The group coordinates and plans activities in each of the three areas defined in the integrated strategy. In the field of external relations, which is the Court's dialogue with States, international organizations, NGOs and other key partners with the aim of building and maintaining support and cooperation, the group has overseen planning and coordination of the Court's delegations to the ASP, meetings and briefings, and reporting on the Court's activities.

In the area of public information, which is the process of delivering accurate and timely information in order to increase understanding and awareness in the general public, the group is preparing for events which may have a high-impact on external perception of the Court and its activities; developing a crisis communication plan, revamping the Court's website and preparing key information materials.

Outreach is a process of establishing a sustainable, two-way communication between the Court and communities affected by situations that are subject of investigations and proceedings. In this area, the group has: Developed ways for the organs to coordinate on timing, messages and activities so that outreach efforts are complementary; Prepared situation-specific outreach strategies; And is preparing a detailed strategic plan for outreach; The Registrar will elaborate on these developments shortly.

I would now like to hand over the floor to the Prosecutor who will provide an overview of communications activities of his office.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo, Prosecutor

I have the honour to speak with you today about external communications for the Office of the Prosecutor. As you know, the Registry has primary responsibility for disseminating general information about the Court, serving the goal of transparency. The OTP supplements this with specific external communications to explain our policies and activities. In this way we seek to build support for our activities, helping us to carry out our mandate.

We have crossed a river. We have opened 3 investigations, and we have almost completed investigations in 2 cases. We have arrest warrants. A prisoner has been transferred. Trials will start this year. A new phase with new challenges is starting.

I would like to communicate to you the main developments in our three situations and then discuss the issues and challenges for our communications and some plans for the future.

ACTIVITIES

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The most important development since the ASP lies in the DRC situation, with the arrest and surrender of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo. The ICC now has its first suspect in custody. The Court is now in a position to commence its first trial this year. Many partners made this possible through their cooperation. We are grateful to the government of France for making available a military aircraft, and to the members of the Security Council sanctions committee for lifting the travel ban.

Thomas Lubanga was the founder and leader of one of the most dangerous militia in Ituri. He has been charged with conscripting and enlisting children under the age of 15 years and using them to participate actively in hostilities. Forcing children to become killers is an extremely serious crime. I have a special duty under Article 54 of the Statute to consider crimes against children.

This is the first case, not the last. The investigation is ongoing, we will continue to investigate more crimes committed by Thomas Lubanga Dyilo and we will also investigate other crimes committed by other groups in Ituri. This is important, it's a sequence.

Uganda

In Uganda, we are working with the Registry on strengthened outreach activities and efforts to galvanize support for arrests. The issuance of warrants has produced a new dynamic. Uganda, the DRC and the Sudan have pledged to coordinate to carry out arrests and leave the LRA no safe haven. The LRA is scattered into smaller groups in different places and is increasingly isolated. The security situation has improved and must be further solidified.

We are continuing missions to complete the investigation of the first case. We work in sequence and started with the top leaders of the group responsible for the gravest crimes. When this is completed, we will evaluate information on crimes allegedly committed by others persons , including member of the UPDF, to determine whether the gravity and complementarity standards of the Statute are met.

Darfur

Darfur presents new challenges for the Court. The security situation in Darfur means that any national or international investigations in Darfur at this time would cause risks for victims. No one can conduct a judicial investigation in Darfur. A comparative advantage for the ICC is that we can more easily investigate from the outside. We have interviewed witnesses in more than 10 countries. We are planning to present a clear picture of the crimes in our next report to the Security Council, in June.

We have recently conducted two missions to the Sudan, in November last year and in February. We have discussed cooperation and admissibility. We have interviewed persons. The Sudan will be sending us further information that we have requested.

The African Union will be an essential partner for our work. Any assistance of States Parties in advancing that partnership will be appreciated.

Other situations

We have learned in our work that preventative impact can begin even before investigations. We have sent a mission to Central African Republic to seek information on admissibility. There is a pending domestic decision that could affect admissibility. We are also planning a mission to Cote d'Ivoire when security permits, with the support of the UN. The mission could contribute to prevention.

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE OTP

Our communications help us to achieve our specific goals in at least two ways: building support and cooperation for our work, and contributing to the broader impact of the Court.

As a legal body responsible for carrying out investigations, we have several constraints on our scope to communicate. We must present our evidence before the judges, not the media. Confidentiality and discretion are necessary to help us protect witnesses and ensure the effectiveness of investigations.

Some constraints arise in particular circumstances. Sometimes protecting the interests of victims may require us to take a low profile.

Information may be under seal. As a result, we may at times be unable to share the most important developments or accomplishments. We can only divulge or confirm the information once it has been unsealed in accordance with judicial process.

How do we maximize the sharing of information with the constraints of an Office of the Prosecutor?

- One: We will engage in discussion and dialogue on our general policies and approaches.
- Two: While most investigative activities will be low profile, we regularly engage in dialogue with local and national communities and provide general updates in various reports and forums, such as the Diplomatic Briefings.
- Three: Even during investigation, the level of profile will vary at different moments in the process. Opportunities to galvanize attention will arise at key moments such as initiation of investigation, reports to the Security Council and unsealing of warrants. The level of profile may

also vary based on the needs of the investigation. In Darfur, a higher profile investigation may be needed in coming months.

- Four: General outreach in a situation can carry on independently of investigations.
- Five: Trials are the most important moment for an elevated profile. This will increase the impact of the Court, including its preventative and educational effects.

Confidentiality and transparency in analysis

Let me provide some examples. I will start with analysis. In principle, analysis of communications is confidential. The Statute and the Rules emphasize the confidentiality of information, protecting the senders of communications, and protecting the integrity of our processes.

Subject to these rules, we are sharing as much information as we can, given the legitimate external interest. We have published a policy paper on our approach to analysis, we have invited comments, and we will be revising our policy on analysis to provide more details on our approach.

On 10 February we published an important update on communications, providing statistics and information on our analyses. We will be furnishing these updates on a periodic basis.

While responses are sent only to senders of communications, we announced our policy that important responses will be publicized in the interests of transparency. We will make responses public where a situation has been subject to intensive analysis, the fact of analysis is in the public domain and reasons can be given without risks to the senders.

As a result, we published our reasons for decision in the Iraq and Venezuela situations. The reactions have shown that publishing responses can have a positive impact, building understanding of our mandate and our standards.

Respecting interests of victims

Investigations in situations of conflict pose many new issues for OTP communication. I can give you the example of Uganda and the interests of victims.

In Uganda, in our first contacts, many community leaders urged us to take a low profile, so as not to aggravate security conditions and to avoid affecting efforts to negotiate an end to the conflict. We therefore kept a low profile in the early months of our investigation, showing the compatibility of justice and efforts for peace. This was our duty to respect victims, and it also advanced cooperation for our investigation because it helped us build relations with local communities.

We engaged in extensive dialogue with community leaders. We reached understandings that we are bringing a justice component to a comprehensive approach. Even the mediators of the peace process are now focused on how to work alongside justice and arrest efforts. The result is a better context for cooperation, for arrest, and for succeeding in our mandate. The networks are now used by the Court in its outreach programs. The outreach of the Court has been increasing throughout last year and will continue to increase.

Complex concepts, polarized populations

Sometimes we must deliver messages on complex concepts, which will be particularly difficult in polarized settings where different sides may emphasize different messages.

I can again use the example of Uganda and the discussion on the interests of justice. Our position was sometimes misquoted as meaning that we had stopped investigating to allow the peace process, whereas others portrayed it as meaning that we were indifferent to the peace process.

Our position was that we were carrying out investigation as per our mandate. We also collected information on the interests of justice, as per our duty under the Statute. We noted the *legal possibility* under the Statute of stopping if the stringent requirements under the “interests of justice” were satisfied, although the information never reached that standard. We managed our timing and profile to avoid disrupting other efforts, and investigations continued unabated.

It was through dialogue with local partners and organizations that understanding was reached.

Building cooperation/different constituencies

For my last example of communication challenges, consider the need to build cooperation. Some observers have expressed concerns about contacts with particular governments or entities that they consider inappropriate. This can create misperceptions of our work and thus create an external communication challenge.

Let me be clear. International justice is based on international cooperation. Investigations are not possible without external support, particularly from States. Territorial States are important to enable us to go to the field, to access evidence and to take security measures. Territorial States are uniquely essential for arrest efforts. For effective investigation, it is my duty to seek cooperation from States and other partners who may help.

It will be important for us to make clear that we will seek information and evidence from all sources. The focus of investigation is driven only by the evidence. We will continue to do this with full impartiality.

Next steps

Effective communication is essential for our operations and for our broader impact. In the DRC, we are explaining that the Lubanga warrant was only one step in a sequence, and we are putting the spotlight on the often neglected problem of child soldiers. In Darfur, we will be increasing our profile in the coming months. We need to explain to audiences in the Sudan and in the international community that the investigation is proceeding unabated, in a manner respectful of Sudanese society.

In Uganda, the radio messages announcing the warrants are a good example of public information contributing to the operations. The radio messages appear to have contributed to defections, weakening the LRA. Public information about the warrants is helping to discourage supply and support, leading to a greater likelihood of arrests. Agreements with Uganda, the DRC and the Sudan are increasing the prospects for arrest.

We are preparing an OTP external communication strategy that will supplement and complement the Court-wide external communication strategy.

Periodic strategic meetings with States Parties and with NGOs have been an excellent forum to communicate about our policies and activities and to obtain feedback to improve them.

The Office is currently developing specific policies on various issues. We look forward to opportunity for dialogue with States Parties and NGOs with respect to those policies. This dialogue is an important component of our external communication. Your understanding of our work will help amplify our messages and increase our impact.

Developing an epistemic network of academics and research institutions will also help to shape our thinking and improve the appreciation of our work . A lack of understanding of our specific constraints on the part of those who would evaluate academically the work of the ICC could undermine the ICC's legitimacy.

Communication is a two-way process. An international Prosecutor is always making choices, and there will always be room for different views. For example, in the Milosevic case, the Prosecutor had a choice between establishing a historical record or bringing very focused charges. Both options were reasonable. The Prosecutor is now criticized for choosing the broader approach. My choice will be the narrower approach. Some day I will be criticized for that approach too. The point is, we understand there will always be other views, we are ready to explain our reasons and discuss views. It does not affect our independence to receive views as part of an appropriate dialogue. As part of the policy development process, I hope we can develop ways to continue and strengthen that dialogue.

It is a very good moment for the Court. A new phase with new challenges is starting. We thank you for your cooperation, but we need to strengthen the efforts further. We need your help to arrest the LRA leaders and stop their activities, we need your help to develop new cases in DRC and to contribute to end crimes and impunity in Darfur.

Thank you.

Bruno Cathala, Registrar

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address you on the occasion of the Sixth Diplomatic Briefing.

In this brief presentation I will attempt to give you an overview of the outreach activities of the Court in the countries where the Prosecutor is currently carrying out investigations. These outreach activities seek to establish permanent dialogue with local communities so as to make the Court accessible and understandable to persons who have been victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC.

The impressive support and commitment expressed by the States on this and many other subjects at the last Assembly of States Parties give us great satisfaction. On that occasion the Assembly stressed how important it was to involve the communities affected by the investigations. That same spirit guides us. We want the communities that have suffered from crimes being investigated by the Office of the Prosecutor to be able to understand the Court's mandate and follow its judicial proceedings. They must be able to take ownership of international justice such that it becomes their own.

The ICC has committed itself to ensuring that justice is seen to be done and that this justice is transparent. Outreach is key to this goal.

The public information and outreach activities already implemented by the Court represent a step in this direction. And this is what I would first like to touch on in my presentation. Although we are of course aware that, as I will highlight in the second part of my speech, additional efforts are necessary.

I. Strategies specific to a situation

a) Inclusion in an integrated strategy

The ICC has developed specific strategies for situations in order to respond as effectively as possible to the particular problems in each country where it is active and to ensure that the specific needs of the communities that have been victims are taken into account. As the President has already said, these strategies are based on the Integrated Strategy of the ICC in terms of external relations, public information and outreach.

Using the field offices it has set up, the Court has been able to draw initial lessons from its experiences. These lessons have been incorporated into the strategies, which have been fine-tuned through consultation with governmental and non-governmental partners.

The strategies fully take into account the general context in which the ICC works when defining its aims and objectives, the key partners and different target groups, and messages and information points. The terminology and language used in the messages must immediately be understood by those at whom they are aimed but must not raise expectations that cannot be met. The messages have been designed to respond to the specific concerns and/or differing information needs of the target groups.

These documents will evolve. To this end, they are regularly evaluated and fine-tuned in accordance with the experience of the Court in the field and in consultation with the local partners.

b) Outreach activities per situation

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Court has carried out various outreach activities over the last eighteen months, with the participation of experts from the Victims Participation and Reparations Section, the Public Information and Documentation Section, the Victims and Witnesses Unit, and sometimes members of the Office of the Prosecutor and representatives of the defence.

The Court has developed relations with institutions and organisations at international, national and local level in the DRC. These activities have taken place throughout the country, not only in Kinshasa but also in various locations such as Kisangani, Bunia, Bukavu, Lubumbashi and Goma. The activities have taken the form of bilateral information meetings, workshops, seminars and training sessions, all designed to respond to the specific needs of participants, who include judges and other professionals working in the courts, lawyers, United Nations agencies in the field, NGO representatives, religious leaders and students. By way of example, one of these activities saw the participation of more than fifty NGO representatives, 100 law and political science students at the University of Kinshasa and 100 journalism students from the institute of journalism, IFASIC.

As radio is one of the most effective tools in the DRC, a special radio series entitled “Understanding the ICC” was broadcast at national level in French and in the local languages in association with Radio Okapi and in cooperation with DRC media experts. Cooperation has now been extended to other radio stations in Bunia and Goma.

The Court has a Communication Coordinator based in Kinshasa responsible for implementing its activities.

The Court’s work in the field was decisive in preparing the local population for the surrender to the Court of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo. On Friday 17 March 2006, Pre-Trial Chamber I unsealed the warrant of arrest issued against him. The Court issued a press release that day and organised a press conference for the Saturday. A telephone link was established with journalists in Kinshasa so that they could ask questions and express concerns directly about Mr Lubanga’s surrender to the Court. At this very moment the Court’s spokesperson is providing further details to the media, NGOs, etc. The first appearance on Monday before Pre-Trial Chamber I was broadcast in the DRC, making it possible for the population to follow the proceedings underway in The Hague. I personally gave interviews to different radio stations in order to explain the legal background and what can be expected now.

Uganda

For security reasons and given the need to conduct the Court’s work in the field in a way that does not run counter to local peace initiatives, outreach activity was carried out discretely between July 2004 and March 2005 through regular consultations with the main players in northern Uganda. It is important to stress that this discretion was requested by the very communities that had been victims.

From March 2005 to the present day, the Court has moved away from such relative discretion, raising the profile of its outreach activities in northern Uganda and openly working with the partners it had identified during the first investigation phase.

These outreach activities have included:

- consultations on the ICC's outreach media with media representatives in Kampala and northern Uganda;
- distributing approximately 78, 000 copies of outreach material such as "Understanding the ICC" – tailored to the situation in Uganda – to local newspapers such as New Vision and the Monitor;
- seminars in which the Ugandan Association of Lawyers, the Ugandan judicial authorities and lawyers participated.

As I speak, four workshops are underway in northern Uganda with more than 100 NGOs from four districts in the north, in cooperation with local NGO forums and the Ugandan Coalition for the ICC. A two-day workshop will also be held in Gulu with 50 traditional Acholi leaders, in partnership with the Supreme Leader of the Acholi, Rwot David Acana II. The religious communities have also been involved in our outreach programmes.

As I promised, I will be going to the DRC and Uganda in the first week of April in order to maintain close dialogue with our partners in the field and to enhance the visibility of the Court among the communities affected by the crimes under investigation.

In the implementation of outreach activities both in the DRC and Uganda, the ICC has used written or spoken outreach materials, some of which have already been translated into the local languages such as Atteso, Acholi, and Swahili. These materials were designed to answer the frequently-asked questions which reflect the concerns of these communities. The materials offer general information about the Court, the rights of the defence, the rights of victims before the ICC and the Trust Fund for Victims. They are designed to meet the specific needs of each target group and are drafted in easily understandable language. In addition to the printed materials, the Court has produced radio programmes and interviews, which are an effective means of reaching local communities, and in particular the illiterate. They are widely broadcast in the countries in which there is a situation.

Darfur

As you are aware, security conditions in Darfur present a certain number of problems for the Court if it is to carry out its outreach activities directly in this region. We are carefully studying the potential impact such activities would have. However, a document providing a pre-assessment of the specific information needs of players in the field has been filled in and has provided an extremely valuable contribution to the specific strategy in the situation currently under study. In developing this strategy, the Court has benefited from the advice and specific expertise of external players.

The Court has taken various opportunities to engage in dialogue with members of civil society and to develop partnerships, and has on various occasions met some of these players at their headquarters.

The experience the Court has acquired in the field to date, the reactions of our partners in the field and the valuable contribution that you have made to the Court on many occasions show that there is still work to be done.

II. What is still to be done

In order to guarantee the effectiveness and continuity of public information and outreach activities in the long term, regular evaluation and assessment of the Court's activities and the projects carried out in the field in close cooperation with its partners are essential.

What we have done up to now is more like a work of art painted with small brush strokes. Yes, we have gone into the field to explain. Yes, we have indeed been able to "mount" communication operations such as at the start of the week in the DRC. Nevertheless, we still lack regularity and are not always able to ensure follow-up. Our partners, the States as well as non-governmental organisations, tell us repeatedly that there is a lack of communication, and this is a point of concern as we enter the judicial phase. It was very striking that during the press conference last Saturday, even the journalistic community in The Hague, who are the most well-informed in matters of international criminal justice, largely were ignorant of the Court's procedure. Their questions reflected a significant lack of understanding as their only point of reference is the procedure in place at the ICTY.

It is therefore urgent that we strengthen our capacity.

This is why the Court – using the existing strategic documents (integrated strategy for external relations, public information and outreach, strategies specific to a situation in the DRC, Uganda and Darfur) as well as our experience and lessons learned in the field as a starting point – has developed a detailed strategic plan on outreach. Preparatory work is currently underway.

This plan will contain an assessment of the Court's objectives in terms of outreach, the structure and resources we consider essential for us to act effectively, as well as result-based indicators. In drawing up this plan, the Court would like to draw upon the valuable experience of the international criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and the Special Court for Sierra Leone as well as that of non-governmental organisations. The plan will be sure to take into account the role of the players who, in the sphere of the Court, are also developing outreach programmes on international justice.

The plan will be ready for the next Assembly of States Parties, and its budget will be included in our draft budget for 2007. It will of course be linked with the vision the Court has outlined in its strategic plan.

Thank you for your attention.

Renan Villacis, Officer-in-Charge, Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties

Mr. President,
Mr. Prosecutor,
Mr. Registrar,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to be with you in order to convey some of the main developments regarding States and the Court. The statement by the Secretariat will be brief since most of the information is reproduced in the package you have received.

Fifth session of the Assembly

Invitations to the fifth session of the Assembly (ICC-ASP/S/5/04), to be held in The Hague from 23 November to 1 December 2006 and to the resumed fifth session, scheduled in New York from 29 to 31 January 2007, were sent to all States on 6 February 2006.

Fourth session and resumed fourth session of the Assembly

Hardcopies of the Official Records of the fourth session of the Assembly (ICC-ASP/4/32) were sent to States Parties on 10 February 2006.

Hardcopies of the Official Records of the resumed fourth session of the Assembly (ICC-ASP/4/37) will be sent to States Parties next week.

Bureau

On 14 February 2006, the Bureau reconstituted its two Working Groups, one based in The Hague and the other in New York.

The Hague Working Group has held two meetings, on 23 February and 10 March 2006, on the issue of interim premises. A third meeting is scheduled for 29 March 2006. The Bureau is awaiting the finalization of the report of The Hague Working Group on interim premises in order to proceed with the requisite consultations among States Parties in New York, prior to submitting its report to the Committee on Budget and Finance.

Thank you.