



Cour  
Pénale  
Internationale  

---

International  
Criminal  
Court

Le Greffe  

---

The Registry



Peter Lewis

Registrar of the International Criminal Court

Speech to the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Assembly of States Parties

*The Hague*

*7 December 2022*

Your Excellency, President of the Assembly of States Parties,

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

It is a great honour be addressing the twenty-first session of the Assembly of States Parties, and my last ASP session with you, and what a privilege it has been.

In 2023, the Court will face an unprecedented workload, in terms of both volume and complexity, with operations in 16 situations, 3 simultaneous trials in 3 courtrooms, 6 cases in trial and pre-trial, ongoing reparations proceedings in 5 cases, and at least 10 ongoing investigations.

To deal with this workload, the Court has proposed a total annual budget for 2023 of €186.8 million, an increase of about €32 million or 20.6 per cent over the current year.

For the Registry, the 2023 proposed budget amounts to €93.4 million, an increase of €14.12 million (17.9 per cent), against the 2022 approved budget.

In addition to the unavoidable increases due to inflationary pressures this year, the budget increase for the Registry is mainly driven by two cost drivers:

- the provision of services for at least three simultaneous trials in 2023;
- And the provision of services for four new active investigations.

The Committee on Budget and Finance, after a careful review, recommended an increase of €24.7 million or 16.0 per cent compared to the 2022 approved budget. Of that €24.7 million, €13.6 million correspond to inflationary pressures.

I want to thank Ambassador Druml and the CBF for their careful and detailed scrutiny of our budget. That scrutiny has, I hope, confirmed that the Court has exercised strict budgetary discipline and has requested only the resources that were necessary.

The combination of additional work, additional situations and significant inflationary pressures on the Court simply means that we do not have the flexibility in our budget beyond the cuts already recommended by the CBF.

I want to say a few words about liquidity.

A number of States Parties are in arrears or have not yet paid their contribution for this year. As a result of this, the Court is again facing a serious liquidity shortfall.

Thankfully, with an important payment for the 2022 budget at the end of November, and very important advance payments from two countries, we will be able to pay our bills until the end of this year. However in doing so, we have exhausted the Working Capital Fund, which means we have no money to start 2023.

I therefore urge the States Parties who are still in arrears or who have not yet paid their outstanding contributions for this year to do so as soon as possible. And I urge all the States Parties to pay their contributions for 2023 as early in the next year as possible, and hopefully in January.

Allow me to also thank at this stage Ambassador Valverde, the facilitator on arrears, for her support and efforts this year.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

The ultimate decision on the budget now rests with you, the States Parties, to determine the level of resources that you believe the Court needs.

I would like to thank the budget facilitator, Ambassador Lanitou Williams for her tireless efforts and hard work over the last months.

As always, the Court stands ready to provide further information in order to assist this honourable Assembly in discharging its functions, in the spirit of openness, transparency and candid dialogue.

Thank you very much.