



DECLARATION OF THE AFRICAN FRANCOPHONE COALITIONS FOR THE ICC (AFC ICC) AT THE 21st ASP SESSION IN THE HAGUE DECEMBER 2022

The African Francophone Coalitions for the International Criminal Court (AFC ICC) is an African structure for consultation and strategy definition in order to create a synergy in favour of international justice and the ICC on the African continent. Its members are present in Francophone African countries and are very active in situation countries. Given the time available, our statement will focus on the situations in Guinea, CAR, Côte d'Ivoire and DRC:

I/ GUINEA

Thirteen years after the events of 28 September 2009, the opening of the trial has taken place, giving rise to much hope for the victims and the fight against impunity. For the moment, the trial is proceeding normally. However, in order to ensure that this hope is not in vain, AFC ICC demands :

- 1) That Guinea's partners accompany the process by honouring their financial commitment,**
- 2) That the Guinean government take measures to ensure the safety of the victims,**
- 3) That the ICC Prosecutor's Office monitor the proceedings in Guinea.**

II/ The CAR

In relation to the CAR 2 situation, which has been pending before the ICC since 2014, **the ICC FACs are very concerned about the lack of urgency of the ICC** to move the case forward within a reasonable timeframe.

The real alleged criminals are not yet arrested. Some are walking freely in Bangui, including those in government, while others are abroad. At this level, **the ICC should play the cooperation card with states.**

For the arrest of Séléka elements, **it is necessary to go beyond those who played second fiddle and get hold of the heads of command.**

The ICC must therefore avoid applying double standards.



III/ Côte d'Ivoire

After the acquittal of Charles Blé Goudé and Laurent Gbagbo, the victims are still waiting for justice. As for the population, it is impatient to see the results of the Côte d'Ivoire 2 investigation.

Faced with this situation, **the AFC ICC request:**

- 1/ The Fund to accelerate the implementation of the victim assistance programme.**
- 2/ The Prosecutor to provide the results of the Côte d'Ivoire 2 investigation.**
- 3/ The ICC to increase the resources and budget for both the investigations and the local office in Abidjan.**

IV/ The DRC

The news in the DRC is dominated by the war in the east of the country, including insecurity in almost all border areas.

In this atmosphere of conflict, **AFC ICC calls for the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms.**

In order to bring peace to the DRC, **the AFC ICC believe that the Office of the Prosecutor must clearly show concern about the rise of impunity, and above all reassure the victims and condemn the perpetrators of violence and crimes.**

Ultimately, the credibility of the ICC and the rule of law in Africa will depend on the Court's ability to respond to and manage victims' expectations of justice. Therefore, investing in justice today means saving money tomorrow, not only in terms of money but also in terms of human lives.

Thank you.

ALI Ouattara, Coordinator of AFC ICC