

**CEREMONY TO MARK THE FIRST MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE TRUST FUND FOR VICTIMS**

**Address by Judge Akua Kuenyehia  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT**

(Originally pronounced in English)

**The Hague, 22 April 2004**

Excellencies,  
Your Eminence,  
*Madame la Ministre*,  
Distinguished members of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims,  
Distinguished guests,

We welcome you to the ceremony marking the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court, yet another milestone in the building up the International Criminal Court. While the Court is in the final stages of ensuring its readiness to commence judicial proceedings, a new body of tremendous importance to the international justice system, conceived by the drafters of the Rome Statute, has just begun its work.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, the Rome Statute is innovative in many ways, but the place it has given to victims of international crimes is often brought forward as one of its most unique features.

The Trust Fund for Victims was established in recognition that justice is not only about punishing perpetrators, but also about restoring dignity to victims. It is the first time in history of international criminal law that victims of the most heinous crimes known to humankind – war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide - have an opportunity to be heard and claim redress from perpetrators convicted by a permanent international criminal court.

Together with the Court's judicial mandate, the Trust Fund is an unprecedented and unique effort to offer at least some solace to victims, not in the least by contributing concrete means to help them move forward with their lives. Through the award, by the Court, of reparations against a convicted perpetrator - including restitution, compensation and rehabilitation, victims may be allowed to rebuild and experience hope through the recognition of what has happened to them.

The five-member Board of Directors of the Trust Fund are tasked by the Assembly of States Parties with the enormous challenge of directing the activities and projects of the Fund. We are very lucky to have such a highly distinguished and eminent Board of Directors, with cumulative experience and wisdom that will undoubtedly ensure the Trust Fund's effectiveness and success.

It is, therefore, a great honour for me to introduce to you the members of the Board of the Trust Fund for Victims.

Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan, who unfortunately had to attend to other urgent commitments after the working meetings of the past days, was elected to serve as the representative for the Asian Region on the Board. As First Lady, Queen Rania's activities encompass issues of national and international concern, such as the environment, youth development and human rights. Internationally, she serves on the Board of Directors of The Vaccine Fund, The World Economic Forum, The International Youth Foundation and The Foundation for International Community Assistance. In Jordan, Queen Rania chairs the Royal Commission on Human Rights. In addition, she has established the first center in the Arab world dedicated to combating child abuse and has actively promoted educational reform and IT learning.

**His Excellency Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki** from Poland was elected to serve as the representative from Eastern Europe on the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court. He was one of the founders of the Solidarity Movement and served as the first Prime Minister of Poland in the post-communist era. He was the founder and the chairperson of The Democratic Union which later became the Union for Freedom. He has served in various positions in the Polish Parliament, including member of the Parliamentary Constitutional Committee, member of the

Parliamentary Defence Committee, and Chairman of the EU-Poland Joint Parliamentary Committee. In the international arena he has served as a UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights for the Former Yugoslavia. At present he is the Chairman of the Polish Robert Schuman Foundation. His Excellency has received several prizes and honorary doctorates in recognition to his activities in the field of human rights.

**Madam Minister Simone Veil** from France was elected to serve as the representative from Western Europe and Other States on the Board. Madame Veil was elected in 1979 first President of the European Parliament and has served as President of the Judicial Commission for the European Parliament. In France, she has held prominent positions with the Ministries of Justice and Health. As an Auschwitz survivor, she is currently President of the Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah and member of the French Constitutional Council. She is widely recognised as a defender and campaigner of human rights, especially of women, children, older persons and immigrants and has received honours from governments and organisations in Europe, Africa and the Americas.

**His Excellency Dr. Oscar Arias Sánchez** from Costa Rica was elected to serve as the representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Region on the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court. Despite the fact that he has closely been involved in the work, he could unfortunately not attend the meetings of this week in person due to the fact that his presence was urgently required in his home country Costa Rica. Dr. Arias Sánchez won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end the cycle of violence in Central America. He earned a doctorate in political science at the University of Essex and, following the adoption of what is widely known as the “Arias Peace Plan,” earned some fifty honorary doctorate degrees. He is the author of several books about peace and politics, and founded the Foundation for Peace and Human Progress with the monetary award from the Nobel Prize.

**His Eminence Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu** from South Africa was elected to serve as the representative of the African Region. He gained international prominence in 1984 when he was awarded the Nobel Peace prize for his work toward a democratic and just society without racial divisions. He continued his work to facilitate South Africa’s transition from Apartheid as Chairperson of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He holds numerous honorary doctorates and international awards.

Over the past few days, the Board of Directors of the Victims Trust Fund, along with the judges and the Registrar of the International Criminal Court, have worked vigorously on a range of issues relating to the operationalization of the Trust Fund. Together, we made important strides in establishing this vital institution.

Twenty five years after the end of World War II, Elie Wiesel wrote:

“At the risk of offending, it must be emphasized that the victims suffered more, and more profoundly, from the indifference of the onlookers than from the brutality of the executioner. The cruelty of the enemy would have been incapable of breaking the prisoner; it was the silence of those he believed to be his friends – cruelly more cowardly, more subtle – which broke his heart. There was no longer anyone on whom to count ... it ... poisoned the desire to live... If this is the human society we come from – and are now abandoned by – why seek to return? “

In its provisions for victims, in particular for this Trust Fund, this Court heeds these words and commits itself to break this silence and hear the voices of the victims.

We welcome you here on this important historic occasion and look forward to your collaboration with and contributions to developing and maintaining this groundbreaking Trust Fund for Victims.

I would like you all to rise from your seats now for a minute of silence which will be followed by a musical moment of remembrance and reflection.