

Joint Declaration on the Identification of Good Practices in the Administration of International Criminal Justice

Arusha, Tanzania 8 and 9 February 2005

Registrars of international criminal courts (Messrs. Hans Holthuis, International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia ([ICTY](#)), Bruno Cathala, International Criminal Court ([ICC](#)), Robin Vincent, Special Court for Sierra Leone ([SCSL](#)), and Adama Dieng, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda ([ICTR](#)), met in Arusha on 8 and 9 February 2005 to pursue talks, initially held over a year ago, with a view to consolidating cooperation ties among the different courts.

The Registrars took stock of the progress made on a number of joint projects, which were approved at their previous meeting in Freetown, in March 2004, as part of inter-tribunal cooperation, and which are being generously funded by the European Commission. They renewed their determination to complete those remaining by early April 2005 in order to enable them to report fully to the European Commission soon thereafter.

Their discussions focussed primarily on those best practices developed in their respective organizations, and they acknowledged the need for reciprocal and mutual exchange of their respective technical and human resources.

Discussions also included various issues crucial to the smooth and efficient operation of the courts, e.g. detention, functioning of the defence, the protection of witnesses, the plight of victims, communication and sensitisation initiatives, the enforcement of sentences, and the position of acquitted persons. The Registrars underscored the role that registries play and must play in each of those areas.

Given that the objective is to strengthen the international criminal justice system and define common strategies, the Registrars of the ICTY, ICC, SCSL and ICTR discussed in depth the challenges of international criminal justice administration and recognized the importance of harmonising the work of their respective institutions.

In concluding their discussions, the Registrars noted the key challenges facing them in the coming years in terms of availability of funding and the delivery of coherent completion strategies of the *ad hoc* Courts. In that respect, the Registrars called for the relevant States to implement those court orders in respect of the surrender and detention of indictees who are still at large.

The Registrars also acknowledged with deep appreciation the significant and continuing support of the international community.

Hans Holthuis

Registrar, ICTY

Bruno Cathala

Registrar, ICC

Robin Vincent

Registrar, SCSL

Adama Dieng

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