



Newsletter

February 2008 #19

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Editorial

Last month, the Court not only achieved the transfer of a further suspect to the ICC, as in two previous cases, but for the first time a decision of the Court led to the actual arrest of a person.

While Part IX of the Rome Statute clearly states the obligation of the States Parties to co-operate fully with the Court, it is nonetheless appropriate and indispensable to commend the realisation of this co-operation. Making an arrest in a national system in execution of an international warrant and transferring a suspect to The Hague requires even closer co-operation than usual between numerous players to surmount the various challenges.

In the present case, the arrest and transfer were achieved with co-operation from the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belgium, and MONUC provided to the Registry, which itself was assisted by the Office of the Prosecutor.

Each execution of a judicial decision is an act which builds on global democracy.

Bruno Cathala, Registrar

Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui arrested in the DRC and transferred to The Hague

Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui, a Congolese national and alleged former leader of the National integrationist Front (FNI) and currently a Colonel in the National Army of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo [*Forces armées de la RDC*/ Armed Forces of the DRC] (FARDC), was arrested on 6 February 2008, by the Congolese authorities and transferred to the International Criminal Court (ICC). He arrived at the Detention Centre of the Court, in The Hague the following day. Mr Ngudjolo Chui is alleged to have committed crimes against humanity and war crimes as set out in articles 7 and 8 of the Statute, committed in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo since July 2002.

Pre-Trial Chamber I issued a sealed warrant of arrest for Mr Ngudjolo Chui on 6 July 2007, after having examined the request and evidence submitted by the Prosecutor. The warrant was unsealed on 7 February 2008.

Factual allegations

Pre-Trial Chamber I found that there were reasonable grounds to believe that Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui, as the highest ranking FNI commander, played an essential role in designing and implementing an indiscriminate attack against the village of Bogoro, in the territory of Ituri, on or around 24 February 2003.

The Chamber also found that there were reasonable grounds to believe that during and after the attack on the village of Bogoro against civilians, primarily of Hema ethnicity, with the active participation of children under the age of fifteen years, several criminal acts were committed: the murder of about 200 civilians; causing serious bodily harm to civilians; arresting, threatening with weapons and imprisoning civilians in a room filled with corpses; pillaging; sexual enslavement of several women and girls.

The Chamber further found that there were reasonable
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grounds to believe that a common plan to carry out an attack on Bogoro was agreed upon by Mr Ngudjolo Chui and other senior FNI and FRPI (*Force de résistance patriotique en Ituri*/ Patriotic Resistance Force in Ituri) military commanders, and that the criminal acts committed during and after the attack were part of the common plan or were at the very least, a probable and accepted consequence of the implementation of the said common plan.

According to the Chamber, there were reasonable grounds to believe that the attack on the village of Bogoro took place in the context of an armed conflict in the territory of Ituri, and that the attack was jointly launched by the FNI and the FRPI as part of a systematic or widespread attack directed against the civilian population of certain parts of the territory of Ituri, primarily of Hema ethnicity, between January and at least March 2003.

The counts

The warrant of arrest for Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui lists nine counts on the basis of his individual criminal responsibility (articles 25(3)(a) or 25(3)(b)) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court) including:

- three counts of crimes against humanity: murder - article 7(1)(a), inhumane acts - article 7(1)(k), and sexual slavery - article 7(1)(g);
- six counts of war crimes: wilful killing - article 8(2)(a)(i) or 8(2)(c)(i), inhuman treatment - article 8(2)(a)(ii) or cruel treatment - article 8(2)(c)(i), using children under the age of fifteen years to participate actively in hostilities - article 8(2)(b)(xxvi) or article 8(2)(e)(vii), sexual slavery - article 8(2)(b)(xxii) or article 8(2)(e)(vi), intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities - article 8(2)(b)(i) or 8(2)(e)(i), pillaging a town or place even when taken by assault - article 8(2)(b)(xvi) or article 8(2)(e)(v)).

Statement of the Registrar

The Registrar of the Court, Bruno Cathala, welcomed the decision of a State Party to the Rome Statute to execute an ICC decision. "Once again, the Congolese authorities have actively co-operated with the Court in the spirit of the Statute, and have enforced a judicial decision by arresting Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui and surrendering him to the Court", said the Registrar.

First appearance of Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui before Pre-Trial Chamber I



Mr Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui makes his initial appearance before Pre-Trial Chamber I © ICC-CPI/Marco Okhuizen

On 11 February 2008, Pre-Trial Chamber I held a public hearing during which Congolese national Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui, appeared for the first time before the Court. The identity of the suspect was verified by the judges.

In order to ensure that Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui was clearly informed of the charges presented by the prosecution, presiding judge Akua Kuenyehia, requested a Court officer to read the arrest warrant in full. The Chamber also satisfied itself that the suspect was informed of his rights under the Rome Statute, including the right to apply for interim release pending trial.

The Chamber reminded the detainee of his right to freely choose counsel to represent him in proceedings before the Court. In the interim, the Registry in accordance with Regulation 73.2 of the Regulations of the Court and in consultation with Mr Ngudjolo Chui, appointed Mr Jean-Pierre

Kilenda as duty counsel to represent him during this first appearance, and until he chooses a counsel to represent him for the rest of the proceedings before the Court.

The duty counsel challenged the admissibility of the case before the Court based on the principle of *Ne bis in idem* or double jeopardy as enshrined in Article 20 of the Rome Statute, and requested the Chamber to grant his client interim release. The Chamber noted that it will consider the issue of joining the charges against Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui.

Pre-Trial Chamber I designated Judge Sylvia Steiner as single judge in the case *The Prosecutor v. Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui*, in order to organise status conferences and to ensure that disclosure takes place under satisfactory conditions. The Chamber also provisionally set the confirmation of charges hearing for 21 May 2008.

Profile on Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui

Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui was born in Bunia, in the Ituri region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). He grew up in Katonie, close to Bogoro. He speaks Lingala, French, Congolese Swahili and Kilendu and is married with two children.

Until August 2002 Mr Ngudjolo Chui was a

nurse in Bunia. In August 2002, following the occupation of Bunia by the *Union des Patriotes Congolais* (UPC) he became a military commander of Lendu troops based in and around Zumbé, Ezekere. Then in March/April 2003, Mr Ngudjolo Chui was appointed as one of three high ranking leaders of the allied army of the *Front des*

Nationalistes et Intégrationnistes - Front de Résistance Patriotique d'Ituri (FNI and FRPI) based in Bunia, becoming Chief of Staff of the FRPI in 2003.

On 23 October 2003, Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui was apprehended by a United Nations Mission in the DRC (MONUC) battalion in Bunia, and surrendered to the DRC authorities following allegations related to the murder of a member of another armed political group. In June 2004, he was charged and acquitted by the *Tribunal de Grande Instance* and released in December 2004.

In June 2005, it is alleged that Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui became the founding member of another rebel group, the *Mouvement révolutionnaire congolais* (MRC). For this reason a national arrest warrant was issued against him in connection with his role within the MRC in September 2005. Further to this in November 2005, a global travel ban was announced and his assets were frozen pursuant to United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1596.

In August 2006, Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui signed a peace deal as the MRC president, with the DRC government in which he

agreed, pursuant to the arrangement made with the DRC authorities, to demobilise his troops. In December 2006 until present day, he was appointed colonel in the *Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo* based in Bunia. As of 2 November 2007, Mr Ngudjolo Chui was in Kinshasa for senior officer training.

Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui is the third person surrendered by the DRC authorities to the ICC. He is the second person charged in connection with the investigation into crimes allegedly committed by leaders of the FNI-FRPI armed groups in Ituri, DRC.

The role of the Court in the transfer of Mr Ngudjolo Chui to The Hague

The operation to transfer Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui from the Congolese authorities (who made the arrest in Kinshasa) to the Court in The Hague was planned and organised by the Director of the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Division of Court Services (DCS) in liaison with amongst others, the Congolese authorities, MONUC and the Field Security Unit (FSU) of the ICC's Security and Safety Section - a focal point for all officially sanctioned field activity related to security.

The Director of the DCS worked closely with all those involved in the highly confidential operation, travelling with the ICC Security Officers from The Hague to Kinshasa and back. The transfer team's function was for the purposes of this undertaking, to secure Mr Ngudjolo Chui, making sure that he arrived in The Netherlands and was handed over to the Dutch authorities in a manner that followed the correct legal procedure. The presence of the Director of the DCS for the duration of the operation ensured respect for the rights of the suspect was guaranteed as well as making sure that all logistical and legal issues were solved before departure. A representative of the Office of the Prosecutor was also in the field and followed the development of the operation.

Such arrests and transfers are conducted with the help of a standard operational procedure (SOP) that is in place between the ICC and the Congolese authorities, and that clearly defines the role of the Registry and focal points on both sides. The SOP also outlines the necessary steps to be followed by the relevant parties.

With regard to the specific arrest of Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui after an arrest warrant was issued by Pre-Trial Chamber I, the Registry notified the Congolese authorities of the request for his arrest and surrender pursuant to an order by the Chamber. In respect of the transfer operations, the DCS sought the co-operation of Belgium. The Belgian authorities assisted in providing an aircraft and a crew. Once the use and type of aircraft were confirmed, the DCS proceeded, in liaison with the Registry's Legal Advisory Section, to request for transits to the relevant embassies.

As soon as the Congolese authorities had begun the process of locating and arresting the suspect, the transfer team began the process of preparing to depart. In comparison to the previous two transfers, Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui was not already held in detention in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) before transfer to The Hague. His arrest was made solely pursuant to the warrant of arrest issued by the ICC whereas the other detainees who were also subject to a warrant of arrest were being held in detention by the Congolese authorities. In respect of preparing for the transfer operation it was the responsibility of the Security and Safety Section to use their expertise to create a profile on Mr Ngudjolo Chui and to make a threat-risk assessment on his potential reaction to his transfer. From this, the team could then plan for any possible outcome necessary to provide safety and security for all those involved.

Once under arrest by the relevant local

authorities, Mr Ngudjolo Chui was brought before the competent judicial authority in the DRC in accordance with Article 59 of the Rome Statute. By order of the relevant judicial authority, the custody of the suspect was, thereafter, handed over to the ICC following the escort of Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui by the Congolese authorities from Kinshasa to N'Djili airport. During this process, the Director of the DCS ensured the regularity of the transfer of custody and received the documents to be consigned in the report on the execution of the arrest warrant to be filed by the Registry for the attention of Pre-Trial Chamber I.

Parallel to this, at headquarters, the DCS were co-ordinating further arrangements with the Registry sections actively involved in the arrival, and liaising with the relevant Dutch authorities. On the day of the transfer, the DCS informed all stakeholders including the Presidency, Chambers, relevant Registry sections and the Dutch authorities, of the latest updates concerning the transfer.

On arrival in the Host State of The Netherlands, the ICC Security Officers placed the suspect in the custody of the relevant Dutch local authorities for immediate transport to the ICC Detention Centre in Scheveningen, The Hague. The relevant Registry officials were present at the Detention Centre upon arrival to proceed with the admissions procedure pursuant to regulation 186 of the Regulations of the Registry. Thereafter the arrival and admission were confirmed to the Court's Presidency, Pre-Trial Chamber I, and the Registrar.

Prosecutor meets with the local population of the Central African Republic



Residents of Boy-Rabe Bangui meet with the Prosecutor © ICC-CPI

On February 7, the Prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo travelled to the Central African Republic (CAR) where investigations into allegations of massive crimes are currently ongoing.

While in Bangui, the Prosecutor met with victims, civil society representatives, local media and the local population. He visited the violence-affected area of Boy-Rabe in the fourth *arrondissement* of Bangui, where troops allegedly committed crimes in 2002, and there he met and spoke with victims, in particular female victims of sexual violence.

He participated in a public discussion with several hundred local women, men and children, who came to tell their stories and directly ask him questions about what the investigation and the ICC mean for the people of CAR. The dialogue was broadcast by

Interactive Radio for Justice.

The Prosecutor also met senior government officials, and paid a visit to the ICC local field office, which opened in October 2007.

The Office of the Prosecutor announced the opening of the investigation in CAR on 22 May 2007. It focuses on crimes which were mainly committed during the violence of 2002-2003. The particularly high number of allegations of rape and other acts of sexual violence is one of the main features of the investigation.

"Hundreds of terrified women have been subjected to the ordeal of sexual violence" said the Prosecutor. "We hear of gang rapes, horrific sexual acts being inflicted on women, young girls, the elderly, in some cases on men. Perpetrators of acts of massive sexual violence, in CAR and elsewhere, must know that they

will be held accountable: such acts are serious crimes falling under ICC jurisdiction and they will be prosecuted."

The Office is also monitoring acts of violence committed since 2005 in the northern part of the country. The Prosecutor addressed national accountability efforts with the CAR authorities. He also urged international support for all efforts to end impunity.

"The people of Central African Republic need to know the world has not forgotten them" the Prosecutor said. "Our investigative activities in CAR can bring to the attention of the international community the terrible problems facing the people here and the need to address them urgently. We need comprehensive solutions for CAR and the support of all. International justice is a central part of the solution".

Crowds welcome the Prosecutor to Bangui © ICC-CPI



The Court develops its outreach strategy for CAR

Since the opening of the Bangui field office in October 2007, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has been working to develop its outreach strategy for the Central African Republic (CAR) that will enable the Court to expand its reach to those communities affected by the crimes being investigated by the ICC. In this context, on 18 - 20 February 2008, the Outreach Unit organised and held an interactive workshop attended by approximately 20 civil society representatives from key CAR groups aimed at developing

outreach plans tailored to the specific needs of the region.

The session was an opportunity for those human rights non-governmental organisations, representatives of religious denominations, trades union groups, youth groups, journalists and lawyers interested in the work of the ICC, to take an active part in defining the Court's priorities and activities which will be implemented for the duration of the judicial proceedings. It was also a

chance to lay the foundations for partnerships based on the sharing of experiences relevant to the specific situation in the Central African Republic.

A report setting out the strategy and its main components will be released in the near future. Following this, it is envisaged that the proposed activities will be implemented in the field with the reaffirmed support of those organisations that took part in the workshop.

ICC holds workshops in Ugandan Acholi sub-region

The Court's Outreach Unit in Uganda is currently focusing on strengthening existing partnerships with local and traditional leaders in the northern part of the country. The aim of this strategy will be to reach a wider audience in the communities affected by the situation currently under investigation by the Court.

To achieve this, the Outreach Unit, in collaboration with the Victims Participation and Reparations Section (VPRS) and a local non-governmental organisation (NGO), Youth Out of Poverty and AIDS (YOPA) conducted two workshops in the Pader and Kitgum districts of the Acholi sub-region on 15 and 18 February, 2008.

The workshops attended by over 90 participants were held in consultation with local Acholi leaders to discuss how their role in disseminating information about the International Criminal Court (ICC) might be

further improved. Local leaders maintain a significant influence within their own community and it is anticipated that in making these leaders more aware of how the ICC operates will increase their ability, when asked, to provide accurate guidance on issues related to the Court. It is anticipated that it will also increase the general population's exposure to the international criminal justice system.

The Outreach team identified a need to discuss issues related to local leader support taking into account the intricate role they play in affecting opinion in their localities whilst making preparations aimed at intensifying mass outreach in the area. To this end, the Outreach Unit organised a training session for instructors on 21 February, for 30 representatives of the Lango Cultural Foundation in Lira and provided them with information related to the work of the ICC. The prime minister and

key members of the three major clans representing the 126 sub-clans of the Lango community also attended.

Throughout the meetings, key themes included an explanation of the role and work of the ICC, describing the main functions of the various organs of the Court, the role and rights of victims, and how the outreach information dissemination mechanism works. Those who took an active part in the deliberations afterwards commended the workshops and the Court's efforts to create a shared forum.

Similar workshops are currently being organised for local leaders in the Soroti and Kaberamaido districts in the Teso region of northeastern Uganda. In addition, the Outreach Unit has finalised interactive radio talk shows that will be broadcast via four local radio stations located in the Teso, Lango and Madi sub-regions.

The Outreach Unit expands radio broadcasting programme in the DRC

The International Criminal Court's (ICC) Outreach Unit is continuing to expand its use of radio programming throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Significantly, this comes at a time following the publication of an opinion poll taken by the Coalition for the International Criminal's Court (CICC) in which radio as a successful tool to publicise the work of the Court has been effectively demonstrated. The report was made to evaluate the Court's current outreach strategy.

According to the report, 57 per cent of those questioned in the DRC said they received information about the ICC from the radio. This is in contrast to the 21 per cent who used television to receive news. The DRC is an area where the geographic coverage of TV is poor, sets are expensive and access to electricity sporadic. It is therefore understandable why radio, a relatively cheap medium that is easy to transport should be successful.

With the aim of reinforcing the number of radio stations broadcasting information about the Court, the Outreach Unit is currently organising a symposium for journalists similar to the successful one held

last August. Media from Mahagi, Aru, Mambassa, Nizi and Kasenyi participated. It is envisaged that new programmes based on the current judicial course of events, will be produced and broadcast based on a similar format of those made in 2007 such as '*Droits et devoirs*' and '*Institutions, c'est facile à comprendre*', which were produced in collaboration with *Radio Okapi* and re-distributed to other Congolese radio stations. '*Connaitre la Cour Pénale Internationale*' also included interviews with various ICC staff members. The new programmes, to be broadcast in French, Lingala and Swahili will expand on the current issues of the Court and the cases relevant to the situation.

In addition, the 'listening clubs' whereby participants are encouraged to play a more interactive role in the proceedings will be fully operational starting in April 2008. The clubs will target the Ituri towns of Bunia, Mambassa, Mahagi, Aru, Ariwara and Kasenyi. Radio stations throughout the area will hold clubs in which participants will be invited to come and listen to radio broadcasts made in collaboration with the Court. New and updated programmes will be made each month. Following each broadcast, participants will be given time to provide

their own ideas and opinions on what they have heard. These views will then be collated by a co-ordinator for each listening club. The co-ordinator will pass this information back to the ICC field office for the Outreach Unit to act upon. It is foreseen that these clubs will not only provide an active forum for discussion, but will also enable the Court to evaluate how much of the Court's work is perceived at a grass roots level.

With regard to television viewing, programmes are received by a minority of Congolese; the majority of viewers are those based in Kinshasa. Therefore the ICC will continue to create new programme sketches to be aired on national Congolese TV and Digital Congo, a private channel.

The Court's field office in Bunia also held a series of outreach workshops for the diverse leaders of Ituri as part of the implementation of its quarterly action plan for January until March 2008. In total, 506 leaders attended including human rights NGOs, female members of civil society organisations, students and district heads. Others, including ethnic community leaders, religious representatives, journalists and community radio disc jockeys also participated.

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Resignation of the Registrar

The Registrar of the International Criminal Court, Mr Bruno Cathala, submitted his resignation to the President of the Court, Judge Philippe Kirsch on 13 February 2008, to take effect on 9 April 2008. He will take up a position in the French judicial system as President of the *Tribunal de Grande Instance d'Evry*.

President Kirsch thanked the Registrar for his dedicated service to the Court and congratulated him on his new appointment. He expressed his personal appreciation and that of the Court for Mr Cathala's important

contribution to the set-up, development and administration of the Court.

Mr Cathala was the first employee of the International Criminal Court. From October 2002 to June 2003, he headed the Division of Common Administrative Services which laid the operational groundwork for the functioning of the Court, and he performed the duties of the Registrar on an interim basis.

In June 2003, he was elected as the first Registrar of the Court for a period of five

years. In this capacity, he has helped to shape an international judicial institution adequately equipped to work in the evolving international criminal justice environment.

In the exercise of his functions, Mr Cathala has brought vast national and international experience in court administration and management. His contribution in the areas of defence, victims and outreach has stemmed from his vision of and personal commitment to the realisation of the quality of justice at the ICC.

Ms Silvana Arbia newly elected as new ICC Registrar

On Thursday 28 February 2008, the judges meeting in plenary session elected by an absolute majority, in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, Ms Silvana Arbia of Italy as Registrar of the International Criminal Court for a five-year term. She will take up her functions at a date to be determined shortly.

Ms Arbia has extensive experience in international law, criminal law, and the judicial management aspects of international criminal law. She is currently Chief of Prosecutions at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), where she was previously a Senior Trial Attorney and Acting Chief of Prosecutions in the Office of the Prosecutor, and led the prosecution of important cases before the ICTR.

Furthermore, Ms Arbia participated in the drafting of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as a member of the Italian delegation at the 1998 Diplomatic Conference in Rome.

Ms Arbia holds a Laurea in Law from Padova University, Italy, and was a professional judge in Italy. She has published several essays and books on human rights and children's rights.

The Registrar, as head of the Registry, is the principal administrative officer of the Court and exercises his or her functions under the authority of the President. The core function of the Registry is to provide administrative and operational support to all organs of the Court. It develops effective mechanisms to assist victims, witnesses and the defence in

order to safeguard their rights under the Rome Statute and the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. Furthermore, the Registry plays a key role in ensuring proceedings are public, and is also responsible for the establishment and development of the Court's field operations.

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The message content of the workshops presented in the local languages of Lingala, Swahili and occasionally, French, focused primarily on the logistical and judicial aspects of the start of the Lubanga trial, and the arrest and transfer of Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui. However, other topics such as general information about the Court, its proceedings - including aspects related to the confirmation of charges hearing, etc., were expanded upon. Participants were also able to express their concerns on issues such as victim participation, which were addressed by Court officials. The leaders of the local districts and smaller administrative entities also produced a schedule for public information activities for their respective areas.

Further to this, attendees were able to actively contribute to the Court's proposed strategy to ensure that the trial can be followed and understood by those affected by the conflict. Suggestions were collected from participants on the kind of approaches the Court might adopt in the field to enable the local Ituri population to follow the various hearings during the trial. These suggestions will be discussed and addressed in the forthcoming report on media arrangements for the Lubanga trial.

The ICC signs a memorandum of understanding with the AALCO

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO) on 5 February 2008.

Signed on behalf of the ICC by President Philippe Kirsch and by H.E. Ambassador Dr Wafik Zaher Kamil, Secretary-General of the AALCO, the aim of the agreement is to formalise and reinforce co-operation and assistance between the two organisations in matters of mutual concern including international criminal law.

AALCO is an inter-governmental organisation whose primary purpose is to serve as an advisory body to its member governments in the field of international law and to provide a forum for co-operation in legal matters of concern to those member states.

The agreement facilitates co-operation in areas such as promoting awareness of international criminal law, exchanges of information, and attendance at conferences, meetings and public hearings.

Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties holds first meeting for 2008

The President-elect of the Assembly, Ambassador Christian Wenaweser (Liechtenstein), chaired the first meeting of the Bureau, held on 11 February 2008.

Facilitators of the Working Groups

The Bureau appointed Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis (Cyprus) as facilitator for the issue of the independent oversight committee. The Bureau noted that it would be useful to consult with the Court on how to proceed on this matter without having to await the outcome of discussions within the United Nations on a similar mechanism.

Seventh session of the Assembly

Bearing in mind that at the beginning of the seventh session, in November 2008, the Assembly would have to elect a new Bureau for the seventh to ninth sessions, the Bureau appointed the following focal points to liaise with their respective regional groups and to hold informal consultations in advance of the session:

- i) Mr Sabelo Sivuyile Maqungo (South Africa) - Group of African States
- ii) Ms Polly Ioannou (Cyprus) - Group of Asian States
- iii) Ms Janine Coye-Felson (Belize) - Group of Latin American and Caribbean States
- iv) Ms Minna-Liina Lind (Estonia) - Group of Eastern European States

Mr Konrad Bühler (Austria) would undertake consultations towards identifying a focal point for the Group of Western European and Other States.

The Hague Working Group

The Hague Working Group held its second meeting on 18 February to, *inter alia*, consider the issue of permanent premises and hear a presentation by the Chief Government Architect of The Netherlands, Mr Mels Crouwel, on the architectural design competition, which was launched on 4 February.

The Chief Government Architect indicated that the aim is to announce, at the seventh session of the Assembly, in November 2008, three prize-winners who will be invited to negotiations on the terms and conditions of a contract to prepare detailed designs. On the basis of the outcome of the negotiations, the Project Board, established by resolution ICC-ASP/6/Res.1, will determine the final winner.

As regards the composition of the jury for the competition, the Chief Government Architect explained that four independent architects have confirmed their participation. Additional architects are still to be determined.

The New York Working Group

On 30 January 2008, the focal point on the review of the Rome Statute, Ambassador Rolf Fife (Norway), and the facilitator of the New York Working Group on the Review Conference, Mr Sabelo Sivuyile Maqungo (South Africa), held informal consultations to consider the issue of the Review Conference, in particular the venue thereof.

Oversight Committee

At its first meeting on 30 January 2008, the Oversight Committee of States Parties for the permanent premises of the Court appointed Ambassador Jorge Lomonaco (Mexico) as Chairperson. In addition, the Committee identified several issues that would require its attention in the near future: the recruitment of the Project Director, preparation of the proposed budget for 2009 for major programme VII, consideration of financing options, as well as issues related to the architectural design competition.

At its second meeting, held on 13 February, the Committee appointed Ambassador Lyn Parker (United Kingdom) as Vice-Chairperson. The Committee also established two sub-groups on the recruitment of the Project Director and on the financing of the project.

Worldwide architectural design competition for the ICC's new premises launched

A worldwide architectural design competition for the construction of the International Criminal Court's permanent premises was launched on 4 February 2008. The aim of this unique project, organised by the Chief Government Architect of The Netherlands, is to select the best architect and design that will be realised in the construction of the new building on a prime site covering over 72,000 m², bordering the North Sea dunes and The Hague.

The ICC and the Host State of The Netherlands share the conviction that the new purpose built premises should provide suitable working conditions, functionality and security, whilst fulfilling an ecological remit. Within the premises, up to 1,200 workstations, courtrooms, and various

ancillary facilities will have to be provided with a total gross floor space of up to 46,000 m². Furthermore, parking facilities as well as plans for further expansion for up to 300 workstations are foreseen. Therefore, the spatial and functional design should take into account the need for long-term flexibility.

To ensure anonymity and for technical purposes, the working language for the competition will be English. All candidates wishing to apply for submission should do so before the deadline, from which up to 20 participants will be chosen. The competition brief will then be sent to those selected in May 2008. Each contributor that submits a design concept in-line with the requirements laid down in the brief shall receive a fee of € 35,000. The three prize

winners will be chosen from this group.

The competition time schedule is:

- Deadline for entry submission: 1 April 2008
- Selection of participants: 16 May 2008
- Brief received, design and proposal submitted: May until August 2008
- Designs evaluated and prize-winners chosen: 30/31 October 2008

The jury will award three prizes for the best designs:

- 1st prize: € 60,000
- 2nd prize: € 50,000
- 3rd prize: € 40,000

For further information regarding competition details please access the ICC website: www.icc-architectural-competition.com

