



Newsletter

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Editorial

In this month's newsletter I would like to draw your attention to two issues of particular importance. The first being the decision of the Prosecutor to open the investigation into the Central African Republic (CAR) and the second, related to the ICC Headquarters Agreement.

Based on the experience gained throughout the last few years, the Court is preparing itself for the upcoming practical, organisational and judicial challenges in the CAR. The establishment of a new field office is one of the current priorities in this respect. This office will provide the necessary facilities and logistical and operational support for the investigations, but also for all other activities such as defence matters, victims and witnesses, and outreach.

The signing of the Headquarters Agreement between the ICC and the Netherlands marks an important milestone in the establishment of this institution. This agreement is a valuable and indispensable tool for the operations of the Court, not only for staff members, but for all persons coming to The Netherlands to participate in or to follow the ICC proceedings.

Bruno Cathala, Registrar

Prosecutor opens investigation in the Central African Republic

The Prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo announced this month the decision to open an investigation in the Central African Republic: "My Office has carefully reviewed information from a range of sources. We believe that grave crimes falling within the jurisdiction of the Court were committed in the Central African Republic. We will conduct our own independent investigation, gather evidence, and prosecute the individuals who are most responsible."

Based on a preliminary analysis of alleged crimes, the peak of violence and criminality occurred in 2002 and 2003. Civilians were killed and raped; and homes and stores were looted. The alleged crimes occurred in the context of an armed conflict between the government and rebel forces.

This is the first time the Prosecutor is opening an investigation in which allegations of sexual crimes far outnumber alleged killings. According to the Prosecutor, "The allegations of sexual crimes are detailed and substantiated. The information we have now suggests that the rape of civilians was committed in numbers that cannot be ignored under international law."

Hundreds of rape victims have come forward to tell their stories, recounting crimes acted out with particular cruelty. Reports detailing their accounts were ultimately provided to the Prosecutor's Office. Victims described being raped in public; being attacked by multiple perpetrators; being raped in the presence of family members; and being abused in other ways if they resisted their attackers. Many of the victims were subsequently shunned by their families and communities. "These victims are calling for justice," Mr Moreno-Ocampo said.

The government of the Central African Republic referred the situation to the Prosecutor. The *Cour de Cassation*, the **to be continued on page 3**

Background to the investigation in the Central African Republic

Crimes

The OTP has analysed allegations of serious crimes perpetrated in CAR. Some of the worst allegations relating to killing, looting and rape, occurred during intense fighting in October - November 2002 and in February - March 2003. Attacks against civilians followed a failed coup attempt; there emerged a pattern of massive rapes and other acts of sexual violence perpetrated by armed individuals. Sexual violence appears to have been a central feature of the conflict.

A distinctive feature of the CAR situation is the high reported number of victims of rape - at least 600 victims identified in a very short period of five months. The real numbers are likely higher as such acts are customarily under-reported. Credible reports indicate that rape has been committed against civilians, including instances of the rape of elderly women, young girls and men. There were often aggravating aspects of cruelty such as rapes committed by multiple perpetrators, in front of third persons, with sometimes relatives forced to participate. The social impact appears devastating, with many victims stigmatised and, reportedly for a number of them, infected with the HIV virus.

The Prosecutor determined that, according to all the information available to the OTP, the alleged crimes, notably killings and large-scale sexual crimes were of sufficient gravity to warrant an investigation. The crimes appear to have been largely committed in and around the capital city of Bangui, but also occurred in areas considerably beyond the capital.

Admissibility

The ICC is a court of last resort, and may initiate cases only where:

- (i) there has not been any national investigation or prosecution of the case; or
- (ii) there is, or has been, such an investigation or prosecution, but the state is unwilling or unable genuinely to carry out the investigation or prosecution.

National proceedings including investigations and preliminary court hearings have taken



The ICC Prosecutor Mr Luis Moreno-Ocampo © Reuters - Jerry Lampen

place in CAR in relation to alleged crimes which may be the focus of OTP investigations. In November 2005, the Prosecutor sent a team to Bangui in order to collect additional information on, and carry out an in-depth assessment of those proceedings. The Prosecutor has also noted the position of the *Cour de Cassation* of CAR in April 2006 indicating that in relation to the alleged crimes the national authorities were unable to carry out the necessary criminal proceedings, in particular to collect evidence and obtain the accused. Having considered all of the relevant facts and circumstances, the Prosecutor has concluded that cases arising from the OTP investigation would be admissible.

Interests of justice

After thorough analysis the Prosecutor has concluded that is no reason to believe that an investigation in the Central African Republic would not serve the interests of justice. As part of the assessment of the interests of justice, the OTP listened to victims' views and considered their interests. Following the mission to Bangui in November 2005, the OTP received clear confirmation that many of the victims in the Central African Republic were awaiting the involvement of the ICC in order to see justice done and to recover their dignity.

Under the Statute, the Prosecutor and the Court are obligated to take measures to protect

victims and witnesses. As it commences the investigation, the OTP is working closely with the Registry to make sure that the appropriate mechanisms will be in place to ensure the security of potential witnesses.

Next step

The Prosecutor will conduct a thorough investigation into serious crimes committed after the 1st of July 2002. The investigation will focus on the most serious crimes, according to the evidence gathered. In particular, the OTP will pay close attention to the many allegations of sexual crimes it has received. Ending impunity of perpetrators of such crimes is crucial to emphasise their gravity and unacceptability. Acts of sexual violence are a serious crime that will be prosecuted in accordance with the Statute of Rome.

In accordance with the Statute and the OTP's prosecutorial policy, the Prosecutor will focus on individuals bearing the greatest responsibility for the most serious crimes. At this stage, the investigation is not directed at any particular suspect.

The Office will continue gathering information and monitoring allegations of crimes being committed on the territory of the CAR, including in the north of the country (particularly in the areas of Birao and Paoua), where violence has again erupted since the end of 2005.



Geographical map of the Central African Republic © ICC-CPI

A comprehensive response is required to address the many problems affecting the population in CAR. Justice is a key component. The Prosecutor will implement his judicial mandate. It is hoped the involvement of the International Criminal Court will also contribute to focusing international attention on the needs of victims and on the risks of continued

violence and crimes in the CAR and the region.

As the OTP opens its fourth investigation in accordance with the Rome Statute, all State parties are called upon to support the Office in fulfilling its mission; fighting impunity is the universal, common challenge of the 104 States parties.

Keydates

3 October 2001 The Central African Republic (CAR) ratified the Rome Statute. The ICC has jurisdiction in CAR since the entry into force of the Rome Statute on 1 July 2002.

22 December 2004 The CAR Government referred the situation to the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP). A few months later, the Central African authorities provided information in relation to the allegations of crimes and to proceedings held by the national judiciary. The OTP has also received significant communications from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and international organisations regarding the alleged crimes.

November 2005 The Prosecutor sent a team to Bangui, the capital of CAR, to collect information in relation to alleged crimes and carry out an in-depth assessment of the relevant national proceedings.

22 May 2007 Following a thorough analysis of available information, the prosecution has determined that the jurisdiction, admissibility and interests of justice requirements of article 53 of the Rome Statute have been satisfied. The Prosecutor announced the opening of an investigation into serious crimes committed in the Central African Republic during the armed conflict of 2002-2003.

Continued from page 1

country's highest judicial body, subsequently confirmed that the national justice system was unable to carry out the complex proceedings necessary to investigate and prosecute the alleged crimes. The ruling was an important factor because under the Rome Statute, the ICC is a Court of last resort and intervenes in situations only when national judicial authorities are unable or unwilling to conduct genuine proceedings.

To reach the decision to open an investigation, the Office of the Prosecutor reviewed information provided by the government in its referral, NGOs, international organisations, and other highly knowledgeable sources.

Investigators working for the Office of the Prosecutor will now begin collecting criminal evidence, with a focus on the peak periods of violence. The investigation is not targeting any particular suspect at this stage and will be guided solely by the evidence that emerges.

While investigating crimes allegedly committed in 2002 and 2003, the Office continues to monitor the current situation in the Central African Republic. There are worrying reports of violence and crimes being committed in the northern areas of the country bordering Chad and Sudan.

The launch of this criminal investigation

occurs in the context of insecurity and deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the country, in particular for displaced persons and children. The Office of the Prosecutor supports efforts by the United Nations and others to achieve a comprehensive solution where lasting security can be established, humanitarian assistance delivered, and development and education promoted.

"In the interests of deterring future violence and promoting enduring peace in the region, we have a duty to show that massive crimes cannot be committed with impunity. We will do our part, working through our judicial mandate," Prosecutor Moreno-Ocampo said.

The Office of Public Counsel for the Defence becomes fully operational

The Office of Public Counsel for the Defence (OPCD) has become fully operational with the appointment of the Principal Counsel, Mr Xavier-Jean Keïta. Although the Office has been functioning since April 2006 under an Associate Counsel, Melinda Taylor, the arrival of Mr Keïta marks a new phase for the department. The credo of the OPCD is to ensure that 'equality of arms', the rights of the defence and the right to a fair trial are safeguarded. These concerns dovetail neatly with those set out in the ICC Strategic Plan, which aims to make the International Criminal Court an innovative, effective and respected institution.

Following the adoption of the Regulations of the Court the Registrar was tasked to establish and develop an Office of Public Counsel for the Defence for the purposes of:

- representing and protecting the rights of the defence during the initial stages of an investigation,
- providing support and assistance to defence counsel and to persons entitled to legal assistance, either by conducting legal research or by providing legal advice, or by appearing before a Chamber in respect of specific issues,
- appointing counsel from the Office of Public Counsel for the Defence if a Chamber decides it is in the interests of justice to do so; and
- in the event of a dispute between the person entitled to legal assistance and his or her counsel, the Registrar may offer mediation and the OPCD may be requested to act as a mediator.

The Registrar is responsible for promoting the rights of the defence by providing the defence teams with the necessary human and financial resources whilst ensuring that confidentiality is protected. The OPCD falls within the remit of the Registry for administrative purposes but otherwise the Office functions independently. The OPCD is also a counterpart to the Office for Public Counsel for Victims (OPCV), established on the same legal basis as the OPCD, but for the purpose of representing and protecting the rights of victims.

Essentially, equality of arms, the rights of the defence and the right to a fair trial are central

to the Office. A trial can only be fair if the rights of the defence are respected, if the presumption of innocence is a reality, and the equality of arms is an intangible principle. The OPCD seeks to facilitate and advocate for equality of arms in terms of rights and means: material and human resources, fair time management for responding or replying, time to cross-examine evidence or witnesses, and the opportunity to travel to the necessary locations in question in good time, and in an effective manner, are just some of the elements to be taken into account to ensure these principles are guaranteed.

There are two separate aspects to the mandate of the OPCD. During the investigations stage (when the OTP has not yet requested an arrest warrant or summons for a particular person), the OPCD has a more representative function. Thus, in order to ensure that the judicial activities of the

counsel or elected to represent themselves, the role of the OPCD can be described as more of an institutional support function. It should be noted that the Office is not a public defenders office *per se*: the Office does not seek to supplant the role of individual defence counsel or a defence bar, but rather to supplement them. The Rome Statute sets out the right of an accused to freely choose their counsel. Having been selected or assigned to a person - the counsel subsequently bears the responsibility for all aspects of the case and for implementing the instructions of their client. Accordingly, it is up to counsel - and not the OPCD - to determine the defence's strategy and the appropriate content of the defence's filings and submissions. It should also be noted that the Code of Conduct provides that "Counsel shall not address directly the client of another counsel except through or with the permission of that counsel". Members of



Mr Keïta, centre, and the OPCD team © ICC-CPI

Court do not prejudice future defendants, the Office is tasked with representing and protecting the rights of the defence during the initial stages of the investigation. For example, if the prosecution wishes to collect evidence in the field or to take witness testimony which might not be subsequently available, the Court may request the OPCD to represent the interests of the defence during this procedure. In addition, as was recently the case in the DRC and Sudan situations, the Chamber may appoint the OPCD as *ad hoc* counsel, to file submissions concerning the right of applicants to participate as victims in the proceedings, and the potential impact of such participation on the rights of the defence.

After a person has been summoned or arrested, and they have been assigned

the OPCD are therefore prohibited from seeking instructions from a represented person, without the express consent of assigned counsel.

In light of the above factors, and in order to prevent possible conflicts of interest arising between the OPCD and different defence teams, the OPCD focuses its research and assistance on legal issues which are potentially of common concern to all defence teams.

The OPCD is independent of the defence counsel and defence teams it seeks to aid. Its structure, composition and operation are distinct and the relationship between the Office and the defence is formalised. The OPCD had the opportunity to clarify its position of independence with regard to Mr Thomas Lubanga Dyilo's defence team,

Becoming a Defence Counsel before the ICC

by recalling in its observations filed on 12 February 2007 that it was unable to stand in for Mr Lubanga's lead counsel, without having been approached or selected by the persons in question and, without being in a position to share or handle confidential information related to the facts and background, and to respect the highly sensitive nature of the protective measures put in place to protect the victims and witnesses. The delicate concept of the 'specific issues' of regulation 77(5) provides the OPCD with an appropriate framework to prevent the Office from losing its identity and its *raison d'être*, should too wide an interpretation prevail.

After almost one year in existence, the OPCD has demonstrated its usefulness in the structure of the Court by advising and providing support to all *ad hoc* defence counsel acting in situations pending, as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan and Uganda, and has represented and protected the rights of the defence in the pre-trial phase of the Lubanga case (DRC) by providing assistance to his defence team. The Office has also undertaken substantial and in-depth research on case law and procedural matters related to human rights, the rights of the defence and the issue of fair trial. The OPCD has also made submissions to the Pre-Trial Chamber on specific issues, with a view to offering its legal and technical expertise regarding the E-Court Protocol for example, and clarifying matters for the participants and the Chamber.

At present the OPCD is devoting considerable effort to prepare an 'assistance and submissions readiness kit' for counsel. This will enable counsel to become more familiar with the legal opinion and case law relevant to the Rome Statute as well as the various rules and regulations. The kit contains model submissions and motions. It is envisaged that such a tool will enable all new counsel to better understand the workings of the Court so that they may become immediately operational as soon as they are appointed.

It is foreseen that as the Court expands its number of cases, the workload of the OPCD will also increase. It is the hope therefore of the new Principal Counsel that the research and documenting efforts currently being made will facilitate the work of future defence counsel.

The procedure of appointment of defence counsel

The inherent right of the defendant to be represented by counsel in criminal proceedings is a well established fundamental principle of justice and a precondition to a fair trial, entrenched in national and international juridical instruments, including the texts governing the International Criminal Court.¹

The sanctity of the freedom choice of counsel is equally well established and safeguarded in the legal regime of the Court.²

The Court through the Registry facilitates the implementation of the right of persons to freely choose his or her counsel. The Registry of the Court provides a person in need of legal representation with the List of Counsel, who are authorised to act before the Court. This List contains all the necessary information to enable the end-user to make a preliminary shortlist of suitable counsel the individual concerned considers desirable to examine their complete files. The defendant is provided the List on arrival at the Court's detention unit and is in *de facto* custody of the Court.

This short-list is then provided to representatives of the Registry, who will in turn and in the shortest possible time, make available to the person in need of legal assistance the complete files of the short-listed counsel so as to enable him or her to make a final selection.

After an examination of the files and, if need be, having liaised with counsel by telephone or personally, the person concerned notifies the Registrar of the Court of the name(s) of persons he or she would like to have appointed as counsel. The Registry then contacts the named counsel to notify them that they have been chosen, requests their availability and arranges for other logistical matters and formalities concerning the appointment.

The procedure for the appointment of counsel is finalised when the chosen counsel confirms his acceptance and communicates it to the Registrar. The Registry then seals the appointment by arranging for the formalities of the appointment. To guarantee the rights of participants in proceedings before the Court, the Registry takes all appropriate measures to ensure that the chosen counsel

is entirely capable of exercising his or her mandate of representation (i.e. by ensuring that the counsel is available and free to properly discharge his or her duties towards the client, etc.).

The List of Counsel

Counsel who desire to practice before the Court as defence counsel need to be admitted to the List of Counsel created and maintained by the Registrar. To be admitted, candidates need to meet certain minimum requirements set out in rule 22 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, and regulation 67 of the Regulations of the Court. These requirements are a quality assurance measure, intended to guarantee that every person in need of legal representation before the Court has available to them a pool of highly competent counsel, amongst whom, they can select and exercise their free choice of counsel.

Counsel wishing to be admitted to the List, must meet all the following criteria:

- Established competence in international/domestic criminal law and procedure;
- A minimum of ten years of relevant experience in criminal proceedings;
- Excellent knowledge of at least one of the two working languages of the Court (English or French); and
- Must have no convictions of any serious criminal or disciplinary offence.

For information on how to apply for admission to the List of Counsel, please refer to the following link on the Court's official website:

www.icc-cpi.int/defence/defcounsel.html

The Court, in particular, encourages and welcomes applications from female lawyers as well as lawyers from countries whose situations have been referred to the Court.

Counsel acting before the Court is bound by the Court's Code of Professional Conduct for counsel:

www.icc-cpi.int/library/about/official_journal/ICC-ASP-4-32-Res.1_English.pdf

¹ article 67.1 (d) of the Rome Statute.

² article 67.1 of the Rome Statute; Rule 21.2 and 3 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

New challenges, new priorities and a new HR Chief for Human Resources



The new Head of Human Resources, Kristiane Golze
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In January 2003, a few months after the International Criminal Court (ICC) formally began its operations it had 30 staff under contract. Two years later, in January 2005, the number had grown to 344. Currently, 652 staff from more than 70 countries support the Court's work. Recruitment of highly qualified staff, with due regard to gender and geographical balance and legal systems, remains a critical and important priority for the Court. The Court's first Strategic Plan, which calls on the ICC to become a model public sector administration, also outlines a number of new priorities for human resources management, such as the establishment of development and employment advancement opportunities for well performing staff, the provision of maximum possible security whilst carrying out their work, safety and welfare for all staff, an overall caring work environment and the fostering of a common ICC culture.

Starting in January 2007, Kristiane Golze joined the Court as its new Chief of Human Resources (HR), succeeding Guido Hildner, who capably served as the ICC's first HR head of section. Ms Golze has worked in international organisations for more than twenty-five years and in the HR field for more than fifteen years. Prior to joining the ICC, she served as Senior Inter-Agency Advisor for Human Resources Management to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Co-ordination. In this capacity, she was responsible for co-ordinating the common system's HR policies and represented the interests of the common system organisations at the

International Civil Service Commission (ICSC). Ms Golze also brings extensive experience in developing and managing leadership and management development programmes in an international and multicultural context. She holds Masters Degrees in Economics and Human Resource Management.

Commenting on the Court's future HR directions, Ms Golze emphasised the importance of the priorities established by the Strategic Plan: Pursuing the ICC's geographical distribution goals remains of utmost importance to the new HR manager who intends to continue strengthening the Court's efforts to attract qualified candidates from all States Parties' countries. She believes that the ICC's mission and mandate provide an important incentive for candidates from across the globe and of all ages to join the Court. "However," Ms Golze added, "attracting outstanding candidates to join an organisation is but one challenge for the HR practitioner. Retaining them is another." Successful retention policies, she points out, need to look beyond the initial attraction factor, and beyond remuneration and benefits packages. Career development prospects, she believes, are among the less tangible but important benefits that feature high on today's employee's priority list, "For example, people in their thirties - unlike their parents, who placed a premium on long-term job security - no longer desire or expect

life-long employment with only one organisation. But they do expect and demand to know how and what their current employment with an organisation will contribute to helping them remain highly attractive and competitive for their next job. That next job could be with the same or another employer - but people need to know how an organisation will assist them getting ready for it. Putting in place a career development plan therefore ranks high on our HR work agenda." In addition to career development, the establishment of new employment conditions for staff serving in the field and the exploration of new performance incentives - such as performance-based pay - are further priorities for the new HR leadership.

When asked to comment on the implementation process for the new initiatives, Ms Golze was optimistic, "Fortunately, at the ICC, we have a supportive and committed leadership and a highly motivated staff, keen to work together to fulfil the Court's ambitious and unique mandate. That's the best prerequisite for success."

Latest Public Legal Filings

For an update of all public legal filings relating to situations and cases before the Court, please consult the ICC website at:

www.icc-cpi.int/cases.html.

Dialogue between the International Courts and Tribunals

The different international courts and tribunals routinely co-operate in their common pursuit of international justice. This co-operation ranges from providing updates on operations and identifying best practices, to concrete and practical assistance and collaboration. Regular dialogue is essential in facilitating such co-operation.

The Second Vice-President Judge René Blattmann, the Deputy Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda and the Registrar Bruno Cathala, recently participated in the Conference on International Criminal Law, convened by the President of the Military Tribunal of

Turin, Italy. Other institutions participating included the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.

On 5 June, the ICC hosted the Judicial Club of The Hague which comprises the judges of the international courts based in The Hague and the Dutch Supreme Court. The ICC President Judge Philippe Kirsch delivered a speech, followed by discussion and a reception.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone begins the Charles Taylor trial at the ICC facilities

The trial of former Liberian President Mr Charles Ghankay Taylor began on June 4, before the Special Court for Sierra Leone, using the International Criminal Court (ICC) facilities in The Hague. Under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concluded by the ICC and the Special Court on 13 April 2006, the ICC is providing courtroom services and facilities, detention services and facilities and other related assistance. All costs will be paid in advance by the Special Court, through a Trust Fund established by the ICC Registrar.

Mr Taylor is charged with 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, including mass murder,

mutilations, rape, sexual slavery and the use of child soldiers. After the initial opening remarks by the Presiding Judge of the Special Court's Trial Chamber II Justice Julia Sebutinde (Uganda), the prosecution was given time to present their opening statement as scheduled. As directed by the Trial Chamber on 23 January, the trial is adjourned and will resume on Monday 25 June.

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996. To date, the Prosecutor of the Special Court has indicted eleven persons on various

charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Following a resolution by the United Nations Security Council calling the presence of Mr Taylor in the sub-region "an impediment to stability and a threat to the peace", and an order by the President of the Special Court ordering a change in venue, Mr Taylor was transferred to The Hague on 20 June 2006. Although the trial is taking place in a courtroom of the ICC, it will be conducted in accordance with the Statue and Rules of the Court by Judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The headquarters of the Special Court remain in Freetown, where other trials are already underway.

Headquarters Agreement signed between the ICC and the Netherlands

On 7 June, President Kirsch of the International Criminal Court and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Maxime Verhagen signed the Headquarters Agreement between the International Criminal Court and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

President Kirsch expressed the Court's appreciation for the support of the host State. He noted, "The Headquarters Agreement will play an important role in cementing a fruitful, lasting relationship of co-operation between the International Criminal Court and The Netherlands."

The Headquarters Agreement regulates the relationship between the Court and the Netherlands and in particular the privileges and immunities of staff and other categories of persons participating in proceedings before the Court. Its provisions facilitate the smooth and efficient operations of the Court in the Netherlands through, amongst others, ensuring that the needs of all persons required to be present at the seat of Court are met and that information and evidence coming in and out of the Netherlands is protected. In particular, the Agreement recognises the important role played by various independent bodies, including counsel or legal associations; journalists and non-governmental organisations, and provides for modalities for consultations to ensure the

smooth processing of applications for visas and stay of representatives of these bodies in the Netherlands.

Negotiations between the Court and the Government of the Netherlands began in January 2003. The Agreement was approved by the Assembly of States Parties in December 2006 and by the Dutch Council of Ministers in May 2007. It will enter into force after Dutch Parliamentary approval, as required by Dutch law.

In the meantime, the relationship between the Court and the Netherlands will continue to be governed by the agreement between the United Nations and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning the Headquarters of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.



President Kirsch and the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Maxime Verhagen © Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

Update on the work of the Assembly of States Parties

The Hague Working Group held its fifth and sixth meetings on 23 and 25 May, respectively.

The discussion at the fifth meeting focused on the issue of geographical representation and gender balance in the recruitment of staff. Presentations were made by the Coalition for the International Criminal Court and the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice. The sixth meeting centred on co-operation (General Legal Mechanisms and Diplomatic and Public Support) and budget matters. Furthermore, on 24 May the Working Group organised an informal briefing in Brussels to provide Embassies of States based in that city with information on the issues under consideration by the Group.

The New York Working Group held informal consultations on 21 and 29 May to discuss the topics of arrears and the review conference, and co-operation, respectively.



Call for experts before the International Criminal Court

Under regulation 44 of the Regulations of the Court and 56 of the Regulations of the Registry, the Registrar of the International Criminal Court shall create and maintain a list of experts accessible at all times to all organs of the Court and to all participants in proceedings before the Court. The list is merely indicative and seeks to facilitate the search for experts in specific fields.

Registration is open to all candidates with expertise in one of the following fields:

Medicine or forensic medicine, ballistics, military science, policing, politics and geopolitics¹, judicial systems¹, history¹, linguistics, finance, forensic handwriting analysis, psychology and reparations.

An expert will be placed on the list for an initial period of five years, followed by re-registration for another five years at his or her express request.

Registration formalities

Application requirements are set out in two separate forms, one of which is for natural persons and the other for expert organisations who wish to be included in the list. The requirements include fluency in one of the working languages of the Court (French or English) and proof of at least seven years experience.

The Application Form should be completed and sent to:

List of experts | Division of Court Services | Maanweg 174, 2516 AB | The Hague | The Netherlands

Contact

For any questions regarding your registration, please write to us at:
ListOfExperts@icc-cpi.int

¹ Only with a particular focus on the various situations: Uganda, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur, Sudan and the Central African Republic.