



The speech of the Registrar on the launching of the 4th Outreach Report

New York, 7 December 2010

Excellencies,
Distinguish delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the Court to successfully fulfill its mission, it is imperative that its proceedings are understood by the communities affected by the commission of crimes within the Court's jurisdiction. As the Assembly of State Parties noted in 2007, Outreach, through interactive communications with affected communities, is "a key element for the successful accomplishment of the Court's mission."

As the number of judicial proceedings increased and progressed over the course of 2010, the role of Outreach became even more essential in terms of bringing justice meted out in The Hague to communities affected by the commission of crimes under the Court's jurisdiction.

This year, the Outreach Unit undertook a difficult job of making accessible developments made during 256 days of hearings, the majority of which were public, to the victims and other members of the communities affected by the commission of crimes under the Court's jurisdiction.

From 1 October 2009 to 1 October 2010, the Outreach Unit organized a total of 422 interactive sessions in situation related countries. Field outreach teams directly targeted 46,499 people, of which 11,605 were women. Through 375 audio and video programs produced by the Court – 153 more than during the previous year – local audiences were informed about the developments at the Court. In

addition, estimated audience of nearly 70 million people was regularly exposed to the Court's information through radio and television programs.

I hope you will agree that this an impressive achievement considering the limited resources granted to the Outreach Unit.

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During the Review Conference held this year in Kampala, the Assembly of States Parties once again emphasized the importance of Outreach and encouraged further efforts to ensure that victims and affected communities are provided with accurate information about the Court, its mandate and its activities. The Assembly stressed the relevance of facilitating communities to exercise their rights under the Rome Statute, including the right to participate in judicial proceedings and claim reparations.

Through a number of diverse campaigns and activities, the Outreach Unit made these rights effective during this period.

The Court has received three times as many applications from victims who wish to participate in the proceedings compared to 2009. The average number of applications for participation received by the Victims Participation and Reparations Section has increased from 63 to 217 per month. Moreover, since victim's participation is envisaged as primarily taking place through legal representation, outreach targeting the legal community in situation countries presented an essential component to making victim's rights effective this year.

The Outreach Unit together with the Victims Participation and Reparation Section also endeavored to reach victims' communities and give them the opportunity to provide representations to the Court. This has been the case in the Republic of Kenya. In compliance with the Court's order issued by Pre Trial Chamber II on 10 December 2009, community leaders of the affected groups, acting on behalf of the victims were enabled to make representations to the Judges presenting their views on the possible investigation in Kenya. Once the channels of communication with the victims had been identified, the Outreach

Unit further facilitated the interaction between the Victims Participation and Reparation Section and representatives of the affected communities.

As a result of these activities, the Court received 396 representations, of which 76 were collective representations made by communities and 320 were individual representations.

The views presented by victims in their representations were taken into account by the judges in authorizing the investigation in Kenya, and the Outreach Unit has since taken steps to inform victim's communities about the Pre Trial Chamber II's decision and its implication.

I would like to stress here one more very important role of Outreach, namely the role of managing the expectations of victims and other members of the affected communities.

Considering the contexts in which the ICC operates, a large number of individuals and communities potentially define themselves as victims. In managing expectations on the role and accessibility of the Court, victims must understand the significance, advantages and risks involved in participating in the Court proceedings, as well as the possibility that an application to participate may not be approved. This same information must be imparted with regard to the principles on reparation contained in the Rome Statute.

I hope we can agree that unrealistic expectations could negatively affect the way victims perceive the Court and international criminal justice in general.

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Allow me to conclude by thanking all those who have contributed to our work over the past years and continue to support us in our current efforts. My special gratitude goes to our staff in the field, to local partners in each situation, to national and international civil society organisations, to bar associations, to universities and to media houses.

My appreciation also goes to the States that since 2006 have allocated the budget for outreach programmes, highlighting the relevance of this non-judicial core function; to donors that provide direct funding to civil society organisations; and

to academic human rights centres that are also working to serve affected communities.

We count on this continued support to fulfil our mandate of Making Justice Meaningful.

Thank you.