

## SECRETARIAT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

### Twelfth session of the Assembly of States Parties

#### Concept note by the facilitator for cooperation<sup>1</sup>

1. The Assembly of States Parties, through its resolution ICC-ASP/11/Res.5, decided to “include a specific item on cooperation on the agenda of its twelfth session”. Pursuant to this mandate, the Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties decided that there will be a separate segment to discuss cooperation at the upcoming twelfth session of the Assembly. To that effect, three hours in the afternoon of **Friday, 22 November, from 15:00 to 18:00 hours**, have been allocated to this item in the plenary of the Assembly.
2. Based on inputs from various stakeholders, and following the organization of two successful seminars in Africa on this topic<sup>2</sup>, the proposed focus of the discussion will be **“The protection of witnesses: strengthening States’ support to the Court.”**
3. The panel will provide an opportunity to stimulate discussions on the most relevant issues regarding the protection of witnesses, in particular the challenges faced by States and the Court in ensuring the protection of witnesses, the relocation agreements and the Special Fund for relocations, as well as the complementary role of national systems of protection.
4. One eminent key note speaker and three panelists will open the plenary discussion. Mr. Sidiki Kaba, Minister of Justice of Senegal, has been invited to deliver a key note address to the Assembly on cooperation with the Court. Following the key note address, three panellists will share insights on the focus topic from their respective perspectives, namely: a) Mr. Herman von Hebel, Registrar of the ICC; b) Ms. Fidelma Donlon Deputy Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone; and c) Ms. Lorraine Smith van Lin, Director of the ICC Program at the International Bar Association.
5. The key note address and the interventions from the Panel will be followed by an **interactive plenary discussion on cooperation**. States Parties are strongly encouraged to participate actively in this segment to provide for a nuanced and broad exchange on this matter. This could include responses to the key note address and to interventions from the panellists, who will also take part in the discussions. Statements discussing the way forward with regard to cooperation with the Court in this specific area are encouraged.
6. A speakers’ list will be opened prior to the Assembly session and **States and other stakeholders wishing to intervene in the discussion should inscribe themselves** on this list.<sup>3</sup> Speakers are requested to limit their interventions to four minutes.
7. An informal summary of the discussion will be prepared, including any pledges made. Pledges and undertakings may also be made in writing. Speakers are invited to submit electronic copies of their statements to the Secretariat for posting on the website of the Assembly.

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<sup>1</sup> Ambassador Anniken Krutnes (Norway)

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Bureau on cooperation, ICC-ASP/12/36, Annex III, and ICC-ASP/12/36, Add. 1. Summaries of the two seminars can be found on the Assembly website: [http://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/asp\\_docs/ASP12/ICC-ASP-12-36-ENG.pdf](http://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/asp_docs/ASP12/ICC-ASP-12-36-ENG.pdf), and [http://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/asp\\_docs/ASP12/ICC-ASP-12-36-Add.1-ENG.pdf](http://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/asp_docs/ASP12/ICC-ASP-12-36-Add.1-ENG.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Requests for inscription should be sent to the Secretariat at: [asp12cooperation@gmail.com](mailto:asp12cooperation@gmail.com), and copied to the following address: [Irvin.Eyolf.Hoyland@mfa.no](mailto:Irvin.Eyolf.Hoyland@mfa.no)

8. In addition, a draft resolution on cooperation is annexed to the report of the Bureau on cooperation (ICC-ASP/12/36, Annex I). The draft resolution contains a placeholder to reflect the outcome of the plenary debate, which will be completed after the plenary on cooperation, prior to its adoption.

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