

SECRETARIAT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

Fourteenth session of the Assembly of States Parties

Plenary Session on Cooperation

Concept Note

The thirteenth session of the Assembly of States Parties adopted resolution ICC-ASP/13/Res.3, requesting the Bureau to maintain a facilitation on the topic of cooperation. On 18 February 2015, the Bureau decided to appoint Ambassador Maymouna Diop Sy (Senegal) and Ambassador Jan Lucas van Hoorn (the Netherlands), of The Hague Working Group, as the co-facilitators for the topic.

Date and time

The plenary session on cooperation will take place during the fourteenth session of the Assembly of States Parties, at the World Forum on **Friday, 20 November 2015, from 10.00 to 13.00.**

Topic and structure of plenary

The first two hours of the plenary will be devoted to a discussion on the theme, “**Cooperation with the Court with a focus on voluntary framework agreements or arrangements.**” This topic was selected by the co-facilitators in order to address the cooperation needs of the Court, which have grown considerably as its investigative, prosecutorial and judicial activities have increased. States Parties have obligations under the Rome Statute to cooperate with the Court; however, along with the compulsory cooperation mandated by the Statute, voluntary cooperation is also essential. Voluntary cooperation has been identified as one of the key priorities for the Court in the near future. So far only a limited number of States Parties have concluded cooperation agreements with the Court. More support is needed, and therefore States Parties are encouraged to enter discussions with the Court in regard to this important function.

Upon conclusion of the panellists’ remarks, States Parties, and to the extent time allows, observer states and civil society organizations, will have the opportunity to pose questions to the panellists and respond to their interventions with regard to voluntary framework agreements. This is proposed as an interactive discussion, moderated by Ambassador Diop Sy. ***Interventions should be limited to a maximum of two (2) minutes.***

The last hour of the plenary session will be devoted to a discussion on cooperation in general, and will be moderated by Ambassador van Hoorn. States Parties, and to the extent time allows, observer states and civil society organizations, will be able to intervene ***for a maximum time of two (2) minutes.***

Panellists for the Thematic Discussion

Confirmed panellists for the thematic discussion include the President of the Assembly of States Parties, the President of the Court, the Prosecutor of the Court, the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Keeper of the Seals of Mali, the Head of the Belgian Central Authority for the Cooperation with the International Criminal Court and the other International Criminal Tribunals, and the Registrar of the Court.

Participation/Speakers’ list

Two speakers’ lists will be available: one for comments on the thematic topic of voluntary framework agreements; and the second, for general comments on cooperation. Delegations are requested to please email asp14cooperation@gmail.com and indicate (1) In which of the two segments they would like to participate; and (2) Name and title/rank of speaker. *The list will close on 19 November 2015 at 12:00 noon (The Hague).* Any requests received after the closing date will be subject to space available.

Conclusion

A reference to the discussion developed during the plenary debate will be included in the draft resolution on Cooperation.

The Reports of the Court and the Bureau on Cooperation are available on the website of the fourteenth session of the Assembly of States Parties:

https://www.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/asp/sessions/documentation/14th-session/Pages/default.aspx

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