



Fifteenth session

The Hague, 16-24 November 2016

**Report of the Working Group on the 2017 proposed
programme budget of the International Criminal Court**

**External audit, programme budget for 2017 and related
documents**

A. Introduction

1. The Assembly of States Parties (the Assembly) had before it the 2017 proposed programme budget submitted by the Registrar of the International Criminal Court (the Court) on 17 August 2016,¹ the reports of the twenty-sixth,² and twenty-seventh sessions³ of the Committee on Budget and Finance (the Committee), the financial statements for the period 1 January to 31 December 2015,⁴ and the Trust Fund for Victims financial statements for the period 1 January to 31 December 2015.⁵ The Assembly also had before it annex III of the report of the Committee on the work of its twenty-seventh session, in which the Court outlined the budgetary implications of the Committee's recommendations on the budgets of major programmes.

2. At the sixth plenary meeting, the Assembly heard the statements made by the Registrar of the Court, Mr. Herman von Hebel, the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Carolina María Fernández Opazo, and the representative of the External Auditor (la Cour des comptes (France)), Mr. Lionel Vareille. The Working Group was further assisted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Hitoshi Kozaki and a member of the Committee, Ms. Elena Sopková.

3. The Working Group on the Programme Budget met on 21 and 23 November 2016. During the meetings the draft resolution was considered and finalized.

B. External audit

4. The Assembly noted with appreciation the reports of the External Auditor and related comments of the Committee contained in the report on the work of its twenty-seventh session.

¹ *Official Records ... Fifteenth session ... 2016*, (ICC-ASP/15/20), vol. II, part A.

² *Ibid.*, part B.1.

³ *Ibid.*, part B.2.

⁴ *Ibid.*, part C.1.

⁵ *Ibid.*, part C.2.

5. The Assembly considered the Audit report of the *ReVision* Project of the International Criminal Court's Registry⁶ pursuant to the decision of the Bureau at its seventh meeting on 15 November 2016.

6. States welcomed the submission of the report. As regards the impact of the *ReVision* project on geographical representation and gender balance, some States stressed that much more needed to be done, and that there was a need for greater transparency in the recruitment process and for improvements in the representation in senior and management positions. Concerns were raised about the cases pending before the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organisation as a result of *ReVision*, and the possible associated costs. It was noted that while budgetary impact of *ReVision* was so far limited, there had been greater operational impact and that the long-term effects could be ascertained in the coming years.

C. Amount of appropriation

7. The Court's 2017 proposed programme budget amounted to €150,238,000, which included the major Programme VII-2 Host State loan amounting to €2,987,300.

8. The Committee's first examination of the Court's 2017 proposed programme budget, at its twenty-seventh session, found a number of areas where, based on actual and forecast expenditure, as well as accumulated experience, a number of savings could be made. Accordingly, the Committee had recommended that the budget allocation be reduced to a total of €147,579,570, including the major Programme VII-2 Host State loan amounting to €2,987,300.

9. The Assembly endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee with the additional adjustments to the budget allocation, reflected in the resolution ICC-ASP/15/Res.1.

10. The Assembly approved a budget appropriation for 2017 of €144,587,300.

11. The Assembly noted that the reduction of the Major Programme VII-2 - Permanent Premises Project – Interest amounting to €2,987,300 brought down the total level of assessed contributions for the 2017 programme budget to €141,600,000.

12. States Parties expressed their appreciation for the work of the Committee in providing technical assistance to States. Some States noted that the final decision on a proposed budget was a prerogative of States Parties and that the recommendations of the Committee provided guidance in this regard.

D. Contingency Fund

13. The Assembly decided to keep the notional level of the Contingency Fund at €7 million.

14. The Assembly authorized the Court to transfer funds between major programmes at year end after the permanent premises overrun has been covered if the costs of unforeseen activities could not be absorbed within one major programme while a surplus existed in other major programmes, to ensure that all appropriations for 2016 were exhausted before accessing the Contingency Fund.

E. Working Capital Fund

15. The Assembly took note of recommendations of the Committee on Budget and Finance and decided that the Working Capital Fund for 2017 shall be established in the amount of €11.6 million. The Assembly further decided that the Court might only use the surplus funds and outstanding contributions to reach the established level of the Working Capital Fund.

⁶ ICC-ASP/15/27.

F. Establishment of a credit line

16. The Assembly considered the request by the Registry for establishment of a credit line due to liquidity problems caused by high level of arrears and outstanding contributions and decided that the Court seek to establish a seasonal credit line in the amount of up to €7 million for the period of December 2016 to mid-February 2017 to cover liquidity shortfalls, and it be used as last resort, after the full utilization of the Working Capital Fund and temporary, exceptional utilization of the Contingency Fund.

17. The Assembly further decided that the Court, as last resort and in amounts strictly necessary, may establish seasonal credit lines limited to the last quarter of 2017 and the first quarter of 2018 to cover future temporary liquidity shortfalls, subject to any relevant recommendations of the Committee on Budget and Finance and timely approval by the Bureau.

G. Financing of appropriations for 2017

18. The Assembly resolved that, for 2017, the total assessed contributions amounted to €141,600,000.
