



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

Twenty-first meeting

The Hague

11 December 2018

8:30 – 9:30

Agenda and decisions

The meeting was chaired by the President of the Assembly, H.E. O-Gon Kwon (Republic of Korea).

1. Preparations for the seventeenth session of the Assembly

a) Organization of work

(i) Programme of work

The Bureau approved a revised programme of work for the seventeenth session and requested the Secretariat to disseminate it.

2. Election of the next Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court

The Bureau continued its consideration of this item. It was noted that a document entitled “Summary of on-going discussions on the election of the next Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court”, dated 3 December 2018, was annexed to the oral report on the activities of the Bureau and that the consultations held by the President of the Assembly during the seventeenth session had sought to advance with some of the key points reflected in that summary.

In this connection, Bureau members expressed views on the need to establish a committee, the nature and purpose of such a committee, the possible venue for its work, and budgetary implications, which could be covered from Major Programme IV (Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties). Some States highlighted the importance of avoiding duplication of work in New York and The Hague. Others proposed that the Advisory Committee on the Nomination of Judges could be mandated with the task of assessing the candidates for the post of Prosecutor.

The President indicated that he would continue with informal consultations with a view to finding the way forward on the matter during the seventeenth session of the Assembly. The Bureau decided to revert to this item at its next meeting.

3. Other matters

a) Oral report of the Bureau

The Bureau adopted the draft oral report of the Bureau, dated 10 December 2018, with a modification to the part regarding the report of the Bureau on the Assessment of the Secretariat, which had been concluded on 11 December 2018. Thus the approved oral report would be reflected in the *Official Records* of the seventeenth session of the Assembly.

b) Dates and venue of the eighteenth session

The Bureau was informed that there were difficulties in identifying a suitable date for the eighteenth session of the Assembly, since the available dates in The Hague in mid-November 2019 would result in an overlap of the meetings of the Assembly and the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. Such an overlap may not allow some delegates to attend the eighteenth session in The Hague and it would also reduce the time available for consultations on some topics, particularly in New York.

The Secretariat indicated that options for a possible change of the dates of the eighteenth session in 2019 were being explored with the World Forum Convention Centre in The Hague, which as a commercial venue had a series of commitments with different clients, including with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.¹ The United Nations Secretariat had also been approached as to the possibility of holding the eighteenth session at UNHQ. Additional time was however required in order to explore those possibilities and the implications of possible changes to the date and venue.

A suggestion was made that, in order to avoid conflicting dates, the Bureau could consider a date in August, before the opening of the United Nations General Assembly.

The President indicated that efforts would continue to identify a suitable date and venue.

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¹ The OPCW has an annual Conference of States Parties which meets in The Hague at the World Forum Convention Centre towards the end of the year, usually either immediately before or immediately after the annual session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute. This avoids an overlap of the two sessions, since most Embassies in The Hague would need to attend both sessions.