

Statement at the end of the first meeting of the Independent Expert Review of the International Criminal Court

At its eighteenth session, the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court ('the ASP'), decided to establish an Independent Expert Review of the Court to identify ways to strengthen the International Criminal Court and the Rome Statute system in order to promote universal recognition of their central role in the global fight against impunity and enhance their overall functioning. For this purpose, the Assembly appointed a group of nine independent experts to make concrete, achievable and actionable recommendations aimed at enhancing the performance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Court and the Rome Statute as a whole.

The review is to be carried out subject to the Terms of Reference set out by Assembly resolution [ICC-ASP/18/Res.7, "Review of the International Criminal Court and the Rome Statute system"](#).

The Group of Independent Experts, identified in the above resolution, held its initial meeting in The Hague on 21 - 23 January 2020. The Experts discussed a programme for their future work, agreed on cluster and plenary meetings in the upcoming months and elected Mr. Richard Goldstone as Chair. The Group further held meetings with Heads of organs and the ASP Presidency, and participated in a meeting of The Hague Working Group of the Bureau of the ASP.

The Group of Independent Experts remains open to States Parties wishing to make additional submissions in relation to the issues set out under the Terms of Reference, should they wish to do so. States Parties are kindly asked to send such submissions to the Group by 15 April 2020 to IER-Assistants@icc-cpi.int.

The Group of Independent Expert invites civil society representatives to a meeting in The Hague on 24 February 2020 from 10.00 - 12.00. Should they wish to do so, they can also furnish the IER with succinct written submissions regarding the mandate that has been given to them by the ASP. It would be much appreciated if any submissions would be conveyed to the Experts by 7 February 2020 to IER-Assistants@icc-cpi.int. Additionally, if members of civil society have information or suggestions for any of the three clusters, they are invited to identify in writing, before 10 March 2020 the cluster or clusters and to submit by that date a short summary of the issues they would like to discuss. The members of the relevant cluster/s will then be in position to decide whether such a meeting should take place.

Current or former judges or staff members of the Court, and Defence and Victims representatives wishing to submit their views relevant to the work of any of the three clusters or to the Group of Independent Experts as a whole, on matters included in their mandate, may prior to 10 March contact the Assistants to the Group of Independent Experts at the following e-mail address: IER-Assistants@icc-cpi.int

The Hague,

23 January 2020