



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

Twelfth meeting

1 November 2013

Agenda and decisions

1. Address by Judge Sang-Hyun Song, President of the Court

In the context of the Court's report to the United Nations General Assembly, the President of the Court briefed the Bureau on the Court's recent activities and decisions.

2. Preparations for the twelfth session of the Assembly

a) Additional agenda item

Pursuant to rule 13¹ of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of States Parties, the Bureau decided to propose to the Assembly the inclusion of an additional item on the agenda of the twelfth session. The additional agenda item would be entitled "Special Segment as requested by the African Union: "Indictment of sitting Heads of State and Government and its consequences on peace and stability and reconciliation." "

The view was expressed that, mindful of judicial independence, States Parties should refrain from commenting on specific cases pending before the Court during the Special Segment.

A notification to States Parties and observers of the Bureau recommendation on the additional agenda item would subsequently be conveyed via the Secretariat.

b) Work programme for the twelfth session

In light of the recommendation concerning the additional agenda item referred to in agenda item 2 (a), the Bureau decided to amend the work programme for the twelfth session. The amended work programme foresees the general debate starting in the afternoon of 20 November, continuing on 21 November in the morning and during the lunch break.

The revised work programme includes a three hour segment on 21 November, from 15:00 to 18:00, for the additional agenda item recommended by the Bureau to the Assembly. The general debate could then continue from 18:30 to 20:00 in order to exhaust the list of speakers on that day.

¹ Rule 13, "Additional items", provides as follows: "Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a regular session or during a session, may be placed on the agenda of the Assembly if the Assembly so decides by a majority of the members present and voting."

The elections would be scheduled for the morning of 23 November, while the plenary session devoted to the budget would take place in the afternoon.

Furthermore, the Bureau allocated two 90 minute segments to the Working Group on Amendments: on 23 November from 16:00 to 18:00, and on 25 November from 15:00 to 16:30, in order to consider any proposals that may arise from proposals to amend the Rome Statute or the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

c) Designation of national tellers for the elections

The Bureau noted that each regional group would need a focal point who would in turn identify one national teller from each respective group to assist with the elections foreseen.

d) Election of the President for the thirteenth to fifteenth sessions

Based on the indication which the Vice-President of the Assembly, Ambassador Ken Kanda (Ghana), had made to Bureau members about the need for additional time to continue the consultations towards identifying a President for the next period commencing on the thirteenth session of the Assembly, the Bureau decided that there was no need to consider this item at the twelfth session and accordingly, that it should be removed from the provisional agenda of the session. The decision on the election of the new President would thus take place at the thirteenth session of the Assembly²; consultations would continue in the coming months.

3. Reports of the Bureau

a) Report on the evaluation and rationalization of the working methods of the subsidiary bodies of the Bureau

The Bureau adopted the report on the evaluation and rationalization of the working methods of the subsidiary bodies. The report contains concrete and practical recommendations and decisions to rationalize the work of the Bureau and its Working Groups, which the Bureau adopted together with the report. The Bureau encouraged the facilitators and focal points to implement those recommendations as soon as possible.

b) Report of the Working Group on Amendments

The Bureau adopted the draft report submitted for its consideration, with a correction to the date in paragraph 5 and requested the Secretariat to issue the document.

² Rule 29 paragraph 1, of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly reads: “The Assembly shall have a Bureau consisting of the President, who shall preside, two Vice-Presidents and eighteen members elected by the Assembly from among the representatives of the States Parties for three-year terms. Should the regular session of the Assembly marking the end of the Bureau’s term of office be held later in the calendar year than the previous regular session, the Bureau shall continue to serve until the beginning of that session. Unless the Assembly decides otherwise, the Assembly shall elect a President at the last regular session prior to the end of the term of office of the President. The President so elected shall assume his or her functions only at the beginning of the session for which he or she is elected and shall hold office until the end of his or her term. The Bureau shall assist the Assembly in the discharge of its responsibilities”.

4. Oversight Committee on the permanent premises

The Bureau took note of the written briefing and supporting documentation conveyed by the Chair of the Oversight Committee.

5. Report of the Advisory Committee on Nominations

The Bureau took note of the report of the Advisory Committee on the Nominations of Judges on the work of its second meeting (ICC-ASP/12/47) and agreed that the programme budget implications for the 2014 activities of the Advisory Committee, contained in annex II of its report, be considered by the facilitation on the budget within The Hague Working Group, so that the Assembly could make a decision thereon at its twelfth session.

6. Report on the activities of the Independent Oversight Mechanism

The Bureau took note of the annual report of the Independent Oversight Mechanism, which would be submitted for consideration of the Assembly.

7. Other matters

a) Recent developments

The President of the Assembly informed the Bureau of her activities with respect to the African Union Summit and of her meeting with the African Union Contact Group in New York on 30 October 2013.

The President also indicated that in a letter dated 28 October 2013 addressed to the Chairperson of the African Union and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, she had invited a high-level representative of the African Union to address the Assembly as a special invitee during the opening plenary on 20 November 2013.

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