



**BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES**

**Fourth meeting**

4 June 2014

Agenda and Decisions

*The meeting was chaired by the President of the Assembly of States Parties, H.E. Ambassador Tiina Intelmann. Both Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, H.E. Ambassador Ken Kanda (Ghana), and H.E. Ambassador Markus Börlin (Switzerland) were present at the meeting.*

**1. The passing of Ms. Alejandra Quezada (Chile), Rapporteur of the Bureau**

The Bureau expressed sorrow at the recent regrettable passing of Ms. Alejandra Quezada, (Chile) who served as Rapporteur of the Bureau.

The Bureau recalled that Ms. Quezada had a strong commitment with the International Criminal Court. As delegate based in New York, she actively participated in the Preparatory Committee of the Court and in the negotiations on the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Rome Statute. She continuously represented Chile at the Assembly of States Parties, and in 2011 she was elected rapporteur of the Assembly.

**2. Letter from Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago (Philippines)**

The Bureau took note of the letter, dated 3 June 2014, addressed to the Presidency of the Court from Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, who had been elected as judge by the Assembly at its tenth session in December 2011.

The Bureau took note that this communication indicates that Senator Defensor Santiago is stepping down as judge elect for medical reasons. This gives rise to a judicial vacancy, which would need to be filled.

The Bureau decided to continue to properly assess the means to conduct the election to fill this vacancy and decided to revert at a later date to the matter, once information on the possible implications this judicial vacancy could have on the election of six judges taking place at the thirteenth session of the Assembly was clearer.

**3. Briefing by the Registrar of the Court**

The Registrar of the Court, Mr. Herman von Hebel, briefed the Bureau on the progress made by the ReVision project of the Registry and welcomed the holding of the Retreat on Governance of the Assembly convened by the President on 3 June, in particular its focus on having a strategic approach which bears in mind the assistance the Court would like to have from States Parties. He also emphasized the importance of continued support from States Parties in the area of cooperation, including the organization of seminars on cooperation

Seminars, such as the one organized in Buenos Aires in May for South American States Parties.

#### **4. Appointment of the facilitator for the omnibus resolution**

The Bureau decided to appoint Ms. Ana Cristina Rodríguez (Guatemala) as the facilitator for the omnibus resolution.

#### **5. Updates on progress on the recruitment of the Permanent Head of the IOM**

The Bureau was informed that the vacancy announcement for the post of Head of the Independent Oversight Mechanism has been posted on the website of the Court on 29 May 2014 and that the deadline for submitting applications to the post ends on 26 June.<sup>1</sup>

The Bureau invited States Parties to disseminate the information about the vacancy announcement as widely as possible at the national level and to encourage qualified candidates to apply for the post.

The Bureau also took note that the Chair of the Panel for the Recruitment of the Head of the IOM, Amb. Jorge Urbina (Costa Rica) was continuing his consultations to constitute the recruitment panel from the expressions of interest he had received.

#### **6. Progress in the identification of the members of the next Bureau**

The Bureau took note of the briefing by Vice-President of the Assembly, Amb. Ken Kanda (Ghana) on the process to identify the next President of the Assembly. Amb. Kanda informed that he had held three meetings with African States Parties, one of them with the President of the Assembly, which have resulted in the three excellent candidates being put forward: H.E. Ms. Attaliah Molokomme, Attorney General of Botswana; H.E. Mr. Sidiki Kaba, Minister of Justice of Senegal; and H.E. Mr. Vandi Chidi Minah, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations.

The candidates have made themselves available to be known by States Parties from Africa and by the broader membership.

Amb. Kanda emphasized that he is working to maintain the past practice in the election of the President focusing on having a consensus candidate. Since such decision would need to be taken at the highest levels of African States Parties, Amb. Kanda informed that in the margins of the next African Union Summit, scheduled to take place Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June, African States Parties would have the opportunity to meet to move to the next step of the process.

#### **7. Thirteenth session of the Assembly: identification of regional representatives for the APIC pledging ceremony**

The Bureau recalled the background note to the APIC pledging ceremony in the revised note, dated 12 March 2014, submitted by Belgium.

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<sup>1</sup> The vacancy announcement may be accessed on the website of the Court until 26 June 2014 at:

*English:*

<http://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/HR/HeadIndependentOversightMechanism-4045EE-RE.pdf>;

*French:*

<http://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/HR/ChefduM%c3%a9canismedecontr%c3%b4leind%c3%a9pendant-4045FE-RE.pdf>.

The Bureau appointed Slovakia as regional representatives for the Eastern European Group to engage States to participate in the APIC ceremony. In this connection, it was recalled that Belgium had been appointed Belgium regional representative for the Western European and other States Group.

The Bureau invited the Africa, Asia-Pacific and GRULAC groups to propose regional representatives at a forthcoming meeting.

#### **8. Retreat on improving the Governance of the Assembly and preparing for its thirteenth session**

The President thanked Bureau members for their active participation at the Retreat she had convened on 3 June on improving the Governance of the Assembly, which was triggered by the visit of some facilitators from The Hague organized by the Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations. The retreat was attended by more than 70 participants including permanent representatives and legal advisors from 50 States Parties, including Bureau members, facilitators/focal points and representatives of States interested in being part of the next Bureau (2014-2017).

The Bureau noted that an informal summary of the retreat would be prepared. The Bureau decided to revert at a later date to continuing the discussion the required follow-up of the issues and recommendations raised at the retreat, including the improvement of the rationalization of the working methods of the subsidiary bodies of the Bureau.

#### **9. Other matters**

##### *a) Activities for the commemoration of 17 July*

The Bureau recalled that in 2010 the Kampala Review Conference had decided to establish 17 July, date of the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute, as the Day of International Criminal Justice.

The Bureau took note of the activities to be organized in New York. An event on 17 July will be organized by the Mission of Italy to the United Nations. Also, the Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations will organize a joint deposit ceremony for States ratifying the Kampala Amendments.

The Bureau also took note of the 17 July commemoration being organized by the Office of the President of the Assembly with the International Criminal Court involving high level officials from States Parties to reach out via a social media campaign to the wider public including via twitter, thus generating awareness of the Rome Statute and knowledge about the Day of International Criminal Justice. States Parties would receive a media kit on the social media commemoration to participate in this global and cost-effective event.

The Bureau also invited the organizers of any 17 July events to convey information thereon to the Secretariat of the Assembly ([asp@icc-cpi.int](mailto:asp@icc-cpi.int)) so that the activities could be made available to all via the website of the Court, as has been the case in past years.

b) *Judicial developments at the Court*

The Bureau took note of briefing by the Head of the New York Liaison Office, Ms. Karen Mosoti, on the most relevant judicial developments since the last meeting of the Bureau on 16 April 2014, which are reflected in the publication entitled “ICC weekly update.”<sup>2</sup>

It was also recalled that in March 2014, following broad consultations, the Court had adopted guidelines governing the relations between the Court and intermediaries for the organs and units of the Court and counsel working with intermediaries; these include the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for intermediaries.

c) *Developments at the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations*

The President informed that she had met with the President of the Security Council for the month of May regarding the Court’s most recent non-cooperation finding in the situation of Darfur, Sudan, which had been transmitted to the Security Council and to the Assembly of States Parties. Appreciation was expressed to the President for her approach to the Council in this important matter.

d) *President’s visits and activities*

The President informed the Bureau that she had met in Geneva in May with the Group of Friends of the ICC on the work of States Parties mainstreaming the ICC at the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, as well as with the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Bureau took note of the forthcoming travel of the President in June: to London on 11 and 12 June 2014 to attend the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict and to Geneva on 13 June 2014 for a panel discussion on “National Accountability for Atrocity Crimes: A Human Rights Priority“, organized by the President’s office together with the Permanent Mission of Estonia to the United Nations in Geneva. Botswana and Sweden, the Assembly’s co-focal points on complementarity, co-sponsor the event, where the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay, would speak.

e) *Next meeting*

The Bureau decided to meet again in New York in July, tentatively after 18 July, with the understanding that some decisions may be taken via silence procedure before that date.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.icc-cpi.int/en\\_menus/icc/press%20and%20media/icc%20weekly%20update/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/icc/press%20and%20media/icc%20weekly%20update/Pages/index.aspx).