



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

Sixth meeting

The Hague, 19 September 2016

Agenda and decisions

The meeting was chaired by President of the Assembly of States Parties, H.E. Sidiki Kaba

1. Fifteenth session of the Assembly of States Parties

(a) Election of a Vice-President

The President informed the Bureau that on 7 September 2016 Ambassador Alvaro Moerzinger had submitted his resignation as Vice-President of the Assembly effective 20 September 2016, as he would pursue professional interests which would not allow him to effectively discharge the role of Vice-President. In light of the resignation, the President proposed and the Bureau agreed to add an item to the provisional agenda of the fifteenth session of the Assembly entitled, "Election of a Vice-President".

The President further indicated that Ambassador Moerzinger had informed him that the Bureau members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) had agreed to propose the candidature of Ambassador Sergio Ugalde (Costa Rica) as the GRULAC candidate to the post of Vice-President.

Bureau members agreed on the importance of having a discussion in the Bureau in advance of the fifteenth session concerning the recommendation it would make to the Assembly regarding the election of a Vice-President, who would be elected by the Assembly in November 2016 and who would have a mandate until the end of the term of office in December 2017.

In light of the work that remained to be done in preparation for the fifteenth session, the Bureau concurred with the suggestion by the President to appoint Ambassador Sergio Ugalde (Costa Rica) as the Coordinator of The Hague Working Group of the Bureau, effective 21 September 2016.

(b) Seating arrangements

In accordance with Assembly decision ICC-ASP/1/Decision.4, the President of the Assembly drew lots to determine which State Party would occupy the first desk on the Assembly floor to the right of the President. Malta was selected.

(c) Programme of work

The President informed the Bureau that he had invited the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini, to address the opening plenary session of the Assembly, and that the High Commissioner had accepted the invitation.

The Bureau approved the provisional programme of work, dated 1 September 2016, as amended to include the item “Election of a Vice-President of the Assembly”. The Bureau would continue its consideration of the provisional programme of work, including the possibility of scheduling a brief segment before one of the plenary meetings regarding the agenda item titled “Pledging ceremony for the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court”.

(d) General debate

The Bureau requested the President to inform States that a general debate would be held on Wednesday 16 November 2016, in the afternoon session and on Thursday 17 November 2016 during the morning, lunch-time and afternoon sessions. Depending on the number of speakers, an evening session may also be required, starting at 18:00 hours. This would enable the Assembly to complete the general debate on 17 November before turning to the substantive items on its agenda.

Pursuant to the practice initiated in 2011, the President informed States of the possibility to participate in the general debate via written statements, which would be posted on the website of the Assembly.

(i) Time limits

The Bureau also requested the Secretariat to inform States of the opening of the list of speakers on 4 October 2016 (Central European Time), and that on the basis of rule 50 and of previous decisions of the Assembly regarding the time limit for statements in the debate, that the Assembly request speakers to observe a time limit of five minutes.

(ii) Participation of observers and non-governmental organizations

The Bureau, on the basis of previous Assembly decisions, recommended that the Assembly allocate 45 minutes for the participation of observers in the general debate, pursuant to rule 92 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

The Bureau also recommended that 45 minutes be allocated to non-governmental organizations for the delivery of statements at the end of the general debate.

(e) Composition of the current Bureau: Rapporteur

The Bureau was informed that the Rapporteur, Ms. Barbara Kremzar (Slovenia) would not be available to attend the fifteenth session of the Assembly, and therefore the Bureau decided to recommend to the Assembly that Mr. Marko Stucin (Slovenia) assume that role for the fifteenth session.

(f) Election of six members of the Committee on Budget and Finance

The Bureau was informed about the status of nominations of eight candidates for six seats on the Committee on Budget and Finance.¹ Given that the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacant seats in the African and the Eastern European groups, the Bureau requested, in accordance with previous practice, a Bureau member of each of these regional groups to consult with the States of their region to consider how a consensus candidate might be presented.

¹ ICC-ASP/15/6.

(i) *Credentials Committee*

The Bureau requested that regional groups consult and indicate, preferably before the end of October, which nine States Parties would be willing to constitute the next Credentials Committee, which the Assembly had to appoint at the beginning of the session.

(ii) *Side events*

In order to facilitate proper planning, the Bureau requested States, observers and non-governmental organizations wishing tentatively to hold side-events during the fifteenth session to so indicate to the Secretariat from 3 to 21 October 2016, with a view to the preparation of a draft advance Journal for dissemination in the week of 24 October 2016. Given the limited availability of conference rooms, the Bureau encouraged States Parties to consider limiting the number of requests for side events and to spread them out over the duration of the session.

(iii) *Trust Fund for the participation of least developed countries and other developing States*

In light of the limited funds available in the trust fund to enable representatives of least developed countries and other developing States to participate in the fifteenth session, the Bureau encouraged States in a position to do so to contribute to the trust fund by 15 October 2016.

2. Reports of the Bureau

The President called upon the facilitators and focal points of the Bureau's working groups to ensure that they complete their work in a timely manner, if possible by the end of September, so as to allow for adoption of the reports of the Bureau well in advance of the fifteenth session.

3. Staff Pension Committee

Based on the recommendations of The Hague Working Group, the Bureau appointed Mr. Jongsun Kang (Republic of Korea) and Mr. Agustín Vásquez Gómez (El Salvador) as member and alternate member of the Staff Pension Committee of the International Criminal Court.²

4. Other matters

(a) *Activities of the President*

President Kaba indicated that the commemoration of the Day of International Criminal Justice in Dakar had been a success. He had then visited Togo to promote the universality of the Rome Statute. Furthermore, President Kaba would hold a series of bilateral meetings during the 71st United Nations General Assembly to encourage ratifications of the Statute and to strengthen the relationship between African States and the Court.

² See resolution ICC-ASP/3/Res.3.