



Reference: ASP/2014/007

Secretariat – Secrétariat

17 March 2014

States Parties to the Rome Statute  
of the International Criminal Court

Excellency,

The Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute is the legislative and management oversight body of the system of the International Criminal Court. Its Bureau, the inter-sessional decision-making organ of the Assembly, has a representative character, taking into account equitable geographical distribution and the adequate representation of the principal legal systems of the world.

In this respect, and considering the importance of continued engagement of all 122 States Parties in the functions of the Assembly, I wish to recall that the term of the current Bureau will come to an end at the opening of the thirteenth session of the Assembly of States Parties, scheduled to take place in New York from 8 to 17 December 2014. In this regard, I refer to the need for the Assembly to identify the 21 States that will serve on the Bureau for the next three-year term.

At its 24 January 2014 meeting, the Bureau set 30 June 2014 as the deadline for the endorsement of candidates who would be elected at the opening of the thirteenth session, on 8 December 2014. In accordance with the amendment to rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure (resolution ICC-ASP/12/Res.8, annex III), the Bureau elected at the thirteenth session will hold office for a term of three years, until the close of the sixteenth Assembly session in December 2017, whereupon a new Bureau will assume office for the next three-year term.

I would like to highlight that the process for the identification of the future Bureau members is being conducted by the regional focal points, appointed to conduct consultations within their respective groups: the Czech Republic, Finland, Gabon, Japan, and Trinidad and Tobago. Interested States are therefore encouraged to indicate their candidatures to the focal points, to assist them in their work.

I also wish to request focal points to bear in mind that by resolution ICC-ASP/12/Res.8, the Assembly endorsed the recommendations contained in the Report of the Bureau: “Evaluation and rationalization of the working methods of the subsidiary bodies of the Bureau” (ICC-ASP/12/59). These recommendations, inter alia, “encourage[d] the regional focal points tasked with the identification of future members of the Bureau to inform individuals who wish to become members of the next Bureau ... about the tasks and responsibilities involved, and to consolidate membership well in advance of elections. Interested States should also be informed that the majority of the meetings of the Working Groups take place in The Hague and if not represented in The Hague, the respective State could consider sending a representative from Brussels to participate in important meetings, such as key meetings of The Hague Working Group.”

To this end, I request the regional focal points to conduct consultations within their groups in order to present to the Bureau a clean slate of candidates by 30 June 2014. I also encourage all States Parties to give their full support to the regional focal points as they carry out this important responsibility on behalf of the Assembly.

As article 112, paragraph 3, of the Rome Statute indicates, the Bureau has two Vice-Presidents. These individuals are representatives of States which are Bureau members and are responsible for coordinating the New York and The Hague Working Group, respectively. The practice of the Assembly has been to elect heads of diplomatic missions of ambassadorial rank to these positions. Expressions of interest from States that are candidates to the Bureau for the positions of Vice-Presidents should be directed to me. I will then consolidate this information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tiina Intelmann', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Tiina Intelmann  
President of the Assembly of States Parties  
to the Rome Statute