

PRESS RELEASE

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**COSTA RICA TO HOLD PRESIDENCY OF THE ASSEMBLY OF
STATES PARTIES TO INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

The Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, meeting in The Hague for its third session, today elected Mr Bruno Stagno Ugarte of Costa Rica President of the Assembly for the fourth to sixth sessions.

The President was elected in advance by virtue of an amendment to rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly adopted at the same meeting.

In further business, the Assembly decided by consensus to defer the adoption of a draft resolution on strengthening the International Criminal Court and the Assembly of States Parties until tomorrow, when a decision will also be made on the dates and venue of the next session of the Assembly.

The President of the Assembly, H.R.H. Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, welcomed the pledge by the observer delegation of Mexico of a voluntary contribution to the Court.

The newly elected President of the Assembly of States Parties

The newly elected President of the Bureau, Mr. Bruno Stagno Ugarte, has served as Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations since 2002. Prior to his current appointment, Mr. Stagno was Chief Adviser to the ranking majority Representative in the Legislative Assembly (National Congress) of Costa Rica. Mr. Stagno began his career in Paris at the Embassy of Costa Rica where he rose to the rank of Consul General and Minister Counsellor. Between 1998 and 2000, he was Chef de Cabinet of the Minister at the Ministry of External Relations and Worship of Costa Rica. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Princeton University, a DEA in Political Science from la Sorbonne and obtained his BSFS in international relations and comparative studies from Georgetown University. He has also taught political science courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

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