



**BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES**

**Eighth meeting**

**18 July 2024**

*(hybrid format)*

Agenda and decisions

*The meeting was chaired by the President, Ambassador Päivi Kaukoranta (Finland). Vice-Presidents Ambassador Michael Imran Kanu (Sierra Leone) and Ambassador Margareta Kassangana (Poland) also participated.*

**1. Composition of the Bureau**

The Bureau continued its consideration of the mandate from the twenty-second session of the Assembly on the composition of the Bureau.<sup>1</sup> Bureau members discussed the representative character of the Bureau, drawing on the previous consideration of the topic at the third<sup>2</sup> and fourth<sup>3</sup> meetings of the Bureau and the background documentation which had been circulated.

Bureau members reiterated the importance of equitable geographical representation in the Bureau, noting that the geographical distribution of States Parties had evolved since relevant decisions were taken on the composition of the Bureau. Bureau members recalled that three regional groups were currently under-represented in the composition of the Bureau when compared with the proportion of States Parties from those groups (the African Group, the Asia-Pacific Group, and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States). Reference was made to the longstanding request<sup>4</sup> from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to address the topic of equitable geographical representation, and the discussions which had taken place in the context of the negotiation of the omnibus resolution in recent years. It was noted that adequate representation of the principal legal systems of the world was a factor which also needed to be considered, alongside geographical distribution.

Bureau members expressed a preference for solutions which did not require an amendment to the Rome Statute. A view was expressed that a possible solution could be found in the process for the appointment of the Rapporteur and the Chair of the Credentials Committee, and their participation in Bureau meetings. Another view suggested that a solution could potentially be found in a rotation of seats amongst the most affected groups. The point was made that it might be helpful to look at the representative character of other international organizations in order to identify alternative models and possible solutions.

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution ICC-ASP/22/Res.3, annex I, para. 11(i): “*Requests* the Bureau to discuss the representative character of its composition, taking into account, in particular, equitable geographical distribution and the adequate representation of the principal legal systems of the world, and to submit a written summary of views expressed ahead of the twenty-third session of the Assembly, and *further requests* the Bureau to, in light of the written summary, consult with all States Parties on the topic and submit a report, without prejudice to any course of action, ahead of the twenty-fourth session of the Assembly”.

<sup>2</sup> See agenda and decisions of the third meeting of the Bureau, held on 6 March 2024, available at: [https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp\\_docs/2024-Bureau3-Agenda-Decisions.pdf](https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/2024-Bureau3-Agenda-Decisions.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> See agenda and decisions of the fourth meeting of the Bureau, held on 9 April 2024, available at: [https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp\\_docs/2024-Bureau4-Agenda-Decisions.pdf](https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/2024-Bureau4-Agenda-Decisions.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> *Official Records of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Thirteenth session, New York, 8-17 December 2014* (ICC-ASP/13/20), volume I, part I, para. 11.

The Bureau decided that a draft written summary of views would be prepared by the President, with the assistance of the Secretariat, for the consideration of the Bureau. The Bureau agreed that the Vice-Presidents would brief the working groups on the general elements of the discussions.

## 2. Other matters

### a) *Elections to be held at the twenty-third session of the Assembly*

The Bureau took note of the status of nominations for the elections to be held at the twenty-third session of the Assembly, as at 18 July 2024:

Subsidiary body	Number of vacant seats	Nominations received
Advisory Committee on Nomination of Judges	nine	four
Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims	five	one
Committee on Budget and Finance	five	one

The President noted that the status of nominations was available on the website of the Assembly, and was updated on a regular basis.<sup>5</sup> The President encouraged States Parties to submit nominations before the end of the respective nomination periods on 25 August 2024.

### b) *Day of International Criminal Justice*

The President briefed the Bureau on an event held to commemorate the Day of International Criminal Justice at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 17 July 2024. The event was entitled “Truth, Memory and Justice: Engaging victims of mass atrocities in international criminal justice”, and was devoted to victims of mass atrocities and to mechanisms to ensure their meaningful involvement and participation in international criminal proceedings since the early stages. The President had delivered opening remarks before a discussion by a panel composed of the President of the Court, Judge Tomoko Akane, the First Vice-President of the Court, Judge Rosario Salvatore Aitala, the Vice-President of the Assembly, Ambassador Michael Imran Kanu (Sierra Leone), and Mr. Pablo de Grieff, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. The President expressed her appreciation to all those involved in making the event a success.

### c) *Recruitment of the Head of the IOM: update*

The Bureau was informed that the recruitment of the Head of the Independent Oversight Mechanism was in the process of being finalized, with an anticipated start date of 1 November 2024.

### d) *Review Mechanism report*

The Bureau took note of the “Report of the Review Mechanism on the overall progress of its work”, dated 11 July 2024, which had been circulated on 16 July 2024 pursuant to resolution ICC-ASP/22/Res.6. The Review Mechanism had indicated that the “Matrix on progress in the assessment of the Independent Expert Review recommendations” was being updated and would be issued as soon as possible.

### e) *Update from the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Nominations of Judges*

The President briefed the Bureau on a letter, dated 16 July 2024, which she had received from the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Nominations of Judges, Ms. Sanji Monageng. The letter

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<sup>5</sup> <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/elections>.

outlined the challenges which the Advisory Committee continued to face in carrying out its mandate<sup>6</sup> to prepare guidelines for national-level nomination procedures by the twenty-third session of the Assembly, in light of the fact that the Assembly had not approved the funds which the Committee had recommended for two in-person meetings in 2024. The Bureau took note that the Advisory Committee was not in a position to carry out the mandate remotely.

*f) Review of the amendments on the crime of aggression*

In response to a query, the President confirmed that indicative costs for a meeting/session on the review of the amendments on the crime of aggression had been included in the proposed programme budget of the Court for 2025,<sup>7</sup> subject to the decision which would be taken by States Parties regarding the venue, format, dates and duration of the review. An addendum to the proposed programme budget would be prepared if necessary. Consultations were still ongoing to identify a focal point within the New York Working Group on the preparations for the review.

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<sup>6</sup> Resolution ICC-ASP/21/Res.2, annex III, section B.

<sup>7</sup> Proposed programme budget for 2025 of the International Criminal Court (ICC-ASP/23/10), paras. 886 and 889 and annex XVIII.