



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

Tenth meeting

4 June 2025

(hybrid)

Agenda and decisions

1. Work programme for the special session of the Assembly on the review of the amendments on the crime of aggression and other arrangements

Update on the work of the Working Group on Amendments

Ambassador Juan José Quintana (Colombia), Chair of the Working Group on Amendments (WGA), briefed the Bureau on preparations for the special session to review the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression. The 2010 Kampala Review Conference had mandated this review to occur seven years after the activation of the Court's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression.¹ In December 2024, the Assembly of States Parties decided to hold the a special session from 7 to 9 July 2025 at UN Headquarters, New York.

The Assembly had tasked the Chair with facilitating discussions within the WGA, which had so far held four meetings, with two additional meetings scheduled for 9 June and 1 July. These meetings aimed to ensure full preparation and discussion of the review of the Kampala amendments, as per resolution RC/Res.6, ahead of the special session.

A proposed amendment to article 15 *bis* of the Rome Statute was being considered by the WGA. This amendment, submitted on 4 April 2025 by a group of States to the UN Secretary-General and communicated to States Parties by a Depositary Notification,² aims to harmonize the Court's jurisdiction on a crime of aggression with the other core crimes under article 5. While there was broad support for the amendment among States Parties, some delegations raised concerns about the timing and appropriateness of using the special session to amend the Statute. They expressed a preference for focusing instead on evaluating implementation of the Kampala amendments in national systems, and discussing States' experiences with ratification. A group of five States had circulated a non-paper proposing that the special session hold substantive discussions without adopting the amendment, and potentially convene a future Review Conference under article 121(2).

Within the WGA, legal and technical issues related to the proposed amendment were discussed in depth. The Chair highlighted that these issues, though complex, are resolvable with political will. The role of the WGA has been technical and non-prescriptive, leaving political decisions to the special session.

¹ RC/6, para. 4: "Further decides to review the amendments on the crime of aggression seven years after the beginning of the Court's exercise of jurisdiction;"

² [CN.162.2025-Eng.pdf](#)

The Chair noted that participation in the WGA had been high, with input from States Parties and civil society, while some non-States Parties attended without intervening. Civil society organizations had shown unanimous support for the proposal on harmonization. They warned that failure to adopt the amendment would be a missed historic opportunity to close the accountability gap from the Kampala compromise.

In response to a query, the Chair confirmed that the WGA would submit a report to the special session detailing all discussions. A view was expressed that this report should be presented at the beginning of the special session to enable the Assembly to work with concrete texts from the outset

Work programme for the special session

The Bureau had before it the following documents:

- (i) Provisional work programme for the special session, dated 3 June 2025,
- (ii) Paper, titled “Non-paper submitted by Canada, France, Japan, New Zealand and the United Kingdom”, and
- (iii) Non-paper- Programme of Work: Special Session on the review of the amendments on the crime of aggression, dated 4 June 2025, submitted by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland.

The President noted that the special session would last only three working days, so time must be used efficiently. The Lessons learnt segment could also address issues listed in paper (ii). Due to time constraints, the provisional work programme did not include a separate General debate, but high-level representatives could speak during the Lessons learnt segment.

She clarified that informal consultations had been included to allow discussions, in particular on the formal amendment proposal in the Depositary Notification and the draft resolution.

A number of Bureau members supported the structure of the President’s provisional work programme, and viewed it as well-balanced. The special session would be the appropriate opportunity to address issues related to the Kampala amendments, as per resolution RC/Res.6. They emphasized that the session should be forward-looking, not a retrospective debate, and should allow for meaningful discussion. Further, it was noted that the objectives in paper (ii) could be covered through the proposed structure, with a Lessons learnt segment offering space for discussing States’ experiences and areas for improvement.

Paper (iii) was seen as consistent with the proposed programme, and members stressed the session should be action-oriented, allowing States to address the shortcomings of Kampala.

The proponents of paper (ii) viewed the session as a chance to share lessons learnt and discuss related issues such as complementarity, universality, and cooperation. They proposed starting with an assessment of progress on the Kampala amendments, especially ratification challenges, noting that only 48 States had ratified or accepted the amendments so far. They highlighted the need to understand States’ positions and have discussions, though the short time may not allow full consideration.

There was some agreement that the Lessons learnt segment could begin during the first plenary on 7 July and continue in the afternoon, providing time for high-level input on areas needing attention, while other members suggested that a General debate be held for this purpose.

The President would carry out further consultations with Bureau members on the work programme.

Other arrangements for the special session

a) Seating arrangements

In accordance with Assembly decision ICC-ASP/1/Dec.4, the President drew lots to determine the State Party that would occupy the first desk on the Assembly floor: Senegal.

b) Nomination of the members of the Credentials Committee

Pursuant to rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of States Parties, the Credentials Committee shall be composed of nine States Parties. The President requested Bureau members to consult within their regional groups to identify States willing to be appointed to the Committee and to inform the Secretariat about the respective candidates as soon as possible in advance of the special session.

c) Nomination of a Rapporteur

The President noted that the Rapporteur should be a representative of a State Party on the Bureau, and should be from a regional group that is not represented in the Presidency of the Assembly. She requested the Bureau members of the Asia-Pacific Group and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to consult in order to agree on one nominee for the position, and to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible in advance of the special session.

d) Credentials of States Parties for the special session

The President reminded all States Parties that the Secretariat had circulated a note verbale on 30 January 2025, requesting that credentials be submitted by 4 July 2025. Observer States, should send communications naming their representative, as well as any alternates and advisers, to the Secretariat by 4 July 2025.

As of 7 July 2025, credentials and all communications for the special session should be delivered directly to the Secretariat of the Assembly in New York, if possible no later than twenty-four hours after the session opens.

e) Trust Fund for the participation of Least Developed Countries and other Developing States

The President informed the Bureau that, since no contributions to the Trust Fund for Least Developed Countries and other Developing States had been received by the end of May 2025, it would not be possible to support any delegate's participation in the special session.

f) Side-events

The President indicated that at United Nations Headquarters, the Secretariat is not responsible for room allocation or covering costs for side events. Delegations must request conference rooms directly through their Permanent Missions. Organizers are responsible for all associated services and equipment (e.g. interpretation, IT, catering), which must also be arranged via the respective Permanent Mission. Guidelines for the preparation and conduct of sessions of the Assembly provide rules in the case of the United Nations.³

³ https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/Guidelines-preparation-conduct-ASP-with-appendix-ENG.pdf

The President noted that side events have traditionally played an important role in Assembly sessions and can help focus attention on some of the key topics mentioned as requiring attention, e.g. complementarity, cooperation and universality.

The deadline to register side events is 16 June 2025, which would allow the Secretariat to prepare a draft advance Journal for dissemination in that week.

Further, United Nations Security controls badge issuance. If a side event participant is not a delegate, not accredited, or (for NGOs) lacks an ECOSOC photo badge, the organizing State must request a UN Special Event Ticket on their behalf.

The sale of printed materials or goods at UN Headquarters during side events or at any other time is strictly prohibited.

2. Procedure for Bureau action upon receipt of the OIOS report

The Bureau continued its consideration of the possible procedural steps to be taken upon receipt by the President of the report of the OIOS. The options were aimed at assisting the Bureau in legal characterisation of the fact-finding of the OIOS report.

The President clarified that under its mandate, the OIOS would produce a fact-finding report. This emphasizes the importance of maintaining a clear separation of investigative and legal functions to preserve the neutrality and integrity of the process.

Bureau members emphasized the urgency of the matter, noting the unpredictable timing of the OIOS report and the need to be prepared to act immediately upon its receipt.

The Bureau agreed that the proposal for an ad hoc panel of three external judges, each acting in a personal capacity, was the most suitable option. Members stressed the importance of including on the panel judges of both genders, as well as some regional diversity.

The President and Secretariat would draft the terms of reference.

As regards the timeline, the President noted that the aim would be to compose the panel as soon as possible. She would inform the Bureau when this was finalized.

3. Other matters

a) Briefing by the Registrar - Update on threats against the Court

The Registrar, Mr. Osvaldo Zavala Giler, provided updates on threats against the Court and the measures that the Court was taking in that regard.

b) Next meeting

The next meeting of the Bureau would be on 2 July 2025 and would be organized in a hybrid format, with those present in New York meeting at the UN Headquarters.

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