



**BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES**

**Seventh meeting**

**2 April 2025**

*(via remote link)*

Agenda and decisions

*The meeting was chaired by the President, Ambassador Päivi Kaukoranta (Finland). Vice-President Ambassador Margareta Kassangana (Poland) also participated.*

**1. Update on threats against the Court**

The Bureau received an update from the Registrar on the impact of US sanctions against the ICC and the measures taken to address the most pressing challenges in this regard. As a result, the Bureau requested the Committee on Budget and Finance (CBF) to engage with the Registrar at its upcoming forty-seventh session to identify a constructive way forward and to provide guidance and advice to the Registrar and the Bureau, particularly on the policy and financial implications thereof.

The members of the Bureau conveyed their support for the Court and the President reaffirmed the commitment to stand united with the Court during challenging times.

**2. Twenty-fourth session of the Assembly**

*a) Provisional agenda*

The Bureau approved the provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the Assembly, dated 21 March 2025. The President requested the Secretariat to disseminate the invitations and provisional agenda to States Parties and relevant stakeholders.

**3. Appointment of Assembly mandate-holders**

The Bureau took note that the Coordinator of the New York Working Group, Vice-President Ambassador Michael Kanu (Sierra Leone), was continuing consultations to identify a facilitator for arrears.

**4. Preparations for the special session on the review of the amendments on the crime of aggression**

The Bureau took note that the substantive preparative work for the special session continued in the forum of the Working Group on Amendments, which had held three meetings thus far under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Juan José Quintana (Colombia).

As regards logistical preparations for the special session, the Secretariat had continued with the arrangements. The United Nations Office of Legal Affairs had responded on the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the special session and the question of payment.

Some Bureau members recalled the Assembly's decision on holding the special session<sup>1</sup> and the question of alternative venues was discussed.

The Bureau took note that Switzerland would organize a workshop in New York in mid-May that would be open to all Permanent Missions, at which the existing legal provisions on the crime of aggression would be considered, in order to better understand how the current system is working.

## **5. Status of contributions**

The Bureau took note that, as at 31 March 2025, the Court had received 78 per cent of the assessed contributions to the approved budget for 2025.

The total amount of outstanding contributions as at 31 March was €66 million, of which €42 million related to the 2025 budget, and €23 million to prior years. A total of 37 States Parties had outstanding contributions of more than one year, and 16 of those were ineligible to vote under article 112, paragraph 8, of the Rome Statute.

The President encouraged all States Parties to pay their assessed contributions to the budget of the Court as soon as possible.

## **6. Establishment of an Evaluation Programme Committee**

The President recalled that, at its twenty-third session, the Assembly had endorsed the Evaluation Policy of the International Criminal Court.<sup>2</sup>

The Head of the Independent Oversight Mechanism (IOM), Mr. Silvain Sana, highlighted that the Assembly was the custodian of this policy and emphasized the Bureau's role in ensuring that evaluations are of strategic value and effectively implemented. An Evaluation Programme Committee, composed of five members including regional representation and chaired by the President of the Assembly, was proposed to assist the Bureau in this role. The Committee would submit an annual report and work plan, with flexibility for amendments as needed.

The Head of the IOM clarified the difference between the IOM and Audit Committee functions, noting that while the two bodies sometimes interact, the Evaluation Programme Committee would focus on guiding the Bureau on future evaluations. The Head of the IOM pointed out the distinct purpose and nature of the Committee vis-à-vis the IOM facilitation and the Audit Committee. Regarding membership, it was suggested that Evaluation Programme Committee members should ideally have an interest in evaluation, and conflicts of interest would be managed through declarations. The importance of continuity in membership was also raised, so that all members would not complete their terms at the same time. The Committee's annual report would be submitted at the end of the year, offering recommendations to the Bureau.

The IOM Head stated that States Parties can regularly contribute to the IOM's work programme through discussions at the Bureau level, in addition to the dedicated sessions of the Committee that will be established. The President proposed that the draft Terms of Reference for the Committee be fine-tuned by the Head of the IOM in light of the discussions, and the Bureau would continue its consideration of the topic.

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<sup>1</sup> ICC-ASP/23/Res.1, para.163: [https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp\\_docs/ICC-ASP-23-Res.1-ENG.pdf](https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/ICC-ASP-23-Res.1-ENG.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid; para. 152. See Evaluation Policy at: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2025-01/2025-01-24-icc-evaluation-policy-eng.pdf>

## 7. Other matters

### *a) Communication from the President of the Court regarding decisions on requests by Mongolia*

The Bureau took note of the decisions of the Pre-Trial Chamber dated 10 March and 18 March 2025 regarding a request from Mongolia, of which the President of the Court, Judge Tomoko Akane had informed the President of the Assembly.

### *b) Possible visit of a person subject to an ICC arrest warrant to a State Party*

The Bureau took note of information in the media regarding the possible visit of Mr. Netanyahu, who is subject to an ICC arrest warrant, to a State Party, Hungary. The President noted that informal Assembly procedures had been activated and the good offices of the Assembly Presidency would be relied on. She recalled that, in the recent similar situation of a visit by Mr. Putin, who is subject to an ICC arrest warrant, to Mongolia, the Presidency had published their letter after the visit had occurred.

As regards the timing of the publication of the letter to the Government of Hungary, it was agreed that the same past practice be applied and that the letter sent on 31 March by the Presidency to the Government of Hungary would be published once it was known that the visit had taken place.

Further, the Bureau took note of letters in that regard that the President had received from the Permanent Mission of the State of Palestine and the Secretary-General of Amnesty International.

### *c) Possible withdrawal by Hungary from the Rome Statute*

The President had received information on the possible withdrawal by Hungary from the Rome Statute, pursuant to article 127 of the Statute. She cited the procedure for withdrawal set out in article 127 and noted that the withdrawal “shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification, unless the notification specifies a later date.” She recalled that Hungary had become a Party to the Rome Statute on 30 November 2001.

A point was made that if withdrawal took place, it would be important to highlight that, pursuant to the Statute, cooperation with the Court had to continue until the withdrawal took effect one year later.

The President proposed that, if an announcement on withdrawal was issued, the Bureau or alternatively the Presidency should issue a statement.

### *d) Confidential letter to the Assembly President*

The Bureau took note of a confidential letter, dated 18 March 2025, from the President of the Court to the President of the Assembly regarding a written reprimand of an elected official.

### *e) Letter from the Executive Director, Secretariat of the Trust Fund for Victims*

The Bureau took note of the content of a letter from the Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Trust Fund for Victims addressed to the President. The letter indicated that, at its first meeting, held on 27 February 2025, the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims had elected its Chair and Vice-Chair as follows:

- Chair- Mr. Andres Parmas (Estonia)
- Vice-Chair- Ms. Monica Sifuentes (Brazil).

The Chair and Vice-Chair would serve until the end of the eighth Board of Directors, in December 2026.

*f) Follow-up to the decision of the Bureau in respect of the election of the Chair of the CBF*

Further to the Bureau's decisions on this issue at its 12 March 2025 meeting, the President had sent a letter, dated 24 March 2025, to the *ad interim* Chair of the CBF, Mr Werner Druml. The letter set out the Bureau's findings and decisions on the interpretation of rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the CBF.<sup>3</sup>

The President urged States Parties whose nationals were members of the CBF to approach those members in order to ensure that there were eligible members for election to the post of the Chair of the CBF at the upcoming forty-seventh session in May 2025.

*g) Recruitment of the Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties*

The President recalled that the Bureau had taken a decision on the candidate to be appointed as Director and noted that finalization of the recruitment process was being handled by the Court's Human Resources Section.

*h) Next meeting of the Bureau*

The next meeting of the Bureau was tentatively scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 7 May 2025.

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<sup>3</sup> ICC-ASP/18/Res.1, annex: [https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/asp/files/asp\\_docs/ASP18/ICC-ASP-18-Res1-ENG.pdf](https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/asp/files/asp_docs/ASP18/ICC-ASP-18-Res1-ENG.pdf)