



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

First meeting

14 January 2026

(hybrid)

Agenda and decisions

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

1. Allocation of mandates

The Bureau adopted the allocation of mandates arising from the twenty-fourth session of the Assembly of States Parties (annex I).

The President noted that the topic “Scheduling of Assembly sessions” would be led by a Bureau focal point, as was the case in 2022.

Further to the Bureau’s decision on timelines at its 5 December meeting,¹ the President encouraged the two Vice-Presidents to continue their consultations in order to identify the mandate-holders for these mandates as soon as possible.

2. Dialogue with non-States Parties

The Bureau continued its discussions on “Dialogue with non-States Parties,” and recalled that both the Declaration of the Assembly at its twenty-fourth session² and the omnibus resolution³ had encouraged such dialogue. It recognized that the current debate was preliminary and exploratory in nature. Members emphasized the need for clarity regarding the definition, purpose, context, and modalities of any such dialogue. Some noted that existing Assembly mechanisms, such as the facilitations on universality, complementarity, and cooperation, could serve as appropriate channels, thus avoiding the creation of new structures, while others emphasized that discussions about the Declaration and omnibus resolution did not refer to facilitations.

Furthermore, any dialogue should reflect the collective position of States Parties, consider the broader political and legal context, and uphold the Court’s independence, impartiality and integrity. Inclusive preparations and agreement on objectives, expectations,

¹ That facilitators and working group Chairpersons to be appointed in 2026 should strictly observe the deadlines set out in the Revised General Roadmap for facilitations contained in ICC-ASP/15/Res.5. See: https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/2025-Bureau17-Agenda-Decisions.pdf

² https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/ICC-ASP-24-Decl.1-ENG.pdf

³ https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/ICC-ASP-24-Res.6-ENG.pdf

and procedures were seen as essential, alongside transparency and participation by all States Parties. The Discussion paper on dialogue would remain a reference for future consideration. The Bureau agreed to revisit the matter following consultations with their capitals and the receipt of further input from members.

3. Secretariat restructuring

The Bureau had before it a paper prepared by the Secretariat on, inter alia, the organization of the Secretariat, the allocation of staffing resources in 2025, including the substantive and administrative workload, work practices, and possible options for restructuring. The Bureau recalled that the mandate of the Assembly to implement the recommendation of the Independent Oversight Mechanism had been given to the Bureau.⁴ In light of the ongoing implementation of the mandate on restructuring, the Bureau agreed that the extension of staff contracts during this period for a shorter term would be placed under a silence procedure.

4. OIOS–Panel update

The President provided an update on issues related to the work of the Panel, and described all steps taken in the process so far. The Bureau discussed other related matters. The Bureau agreed to consider a request by the Panel for an extension of time due to the volume of materials, timing of receipt, and IT challenges, under a silence procedure.

5. Status of contributions

The Bureau took note that, as at 9 January 2026, the Court had received 49 per cent of the assessed contributions to the approved budget for 2026. The total amount of outstanding contributions was 128.8 million, of which €101 million relates to the 2026 budget, and €27.8 million to prior years. A total of 41 States Parties had outstanding contributions of more than one year, 18 of which were ineligible to vote under article 112, paragraph 8, of the Rome Statute.

The President thanked those States Parties that had already paid their assessed contributions for 2026 and encouraged all other States Parties to pay their assessed contributions to the budget of the Court as soon as possible.

6. Other matters

a) Tentative calendar of Bureau meetings

The Bureau took note of the tentative calendar of Bureau meetings, dated 10 December 2025. As a general rule, the Bureau would meet on the first Wednesday of each month, although there might occasionally be a need to change the date.

b) Twenty-fourth session of the Assembly: facts and figures

The Bureau took note of a document containing facts and figures relating to the twenty-fourth session of the Assembly, dated 7 January 2026, compiled by the Secretariat.

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

The President informed the Bureau that, on 5 December 2025, Switzerland had contributed €42,354.00 to the Trust Fund for the participation of Least Developed Countries and other Developing States in the work of the Assembly. She thanked the Government of Switzerland for its contribution, which would enable the participation of some delegates in the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly.

⁴ ICC-ASP/23/Res.1, para. 88: https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/ICC-ASP-23-Res.1-ENG.pdf.

The Bureau took note with appreciation of the generous contribution of Switzerland to the Trust Fund, and noted also that the contribution would be reflected in the Officials Records of the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly.

Annex

Allocation of mandates as follow-up to the twenty-fourth session of the Assembly of States Parties

a) Bureau focal point

- Scheduling of Assembly sessions⁵

b) Ad country mandates

- Complementarity⁶
- Non-cooperation⁷
- Plan of action for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute⁸

c) New York Working Group⁹

- Arrears
- Composition of the Bureau¹⁰
- Geographical representation and gender balance in the recruitment of staff of the Court
- Omnibus resolution
- Review of the procedure for the nomination and election of judges

d) The Hague Working Group¹¹

- Budget¹²
 - Sub-topic: Budget Management Oversight
- Cooperation
- Legal aid
- Review of the work and operational mandate of the Independent Oversight Mechanism
- Trust Fund for Victims

e) Subsidiary body of The Hague Working Group

- Study Group on Governance

⁵ See Res. ICC-ASP/22/Res.3, para. 107: “Welcomes the report of the Bureau on the scheduling of Assembly sessions and the recommendations therein, and decides to revert to the question at an appropriate time, preferably ahead of the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly”. This mandate will be based in New York.

⁶ Based in The Hague.

⁷ Based in New York.

⁸ Based in The Hague.

⁹ Including the Guidelines for enhancing the security of participants in the work of the Assembly (see ICC-ASP/24/Res.6, para. 181).

¹⁰ See ICC-ASP/24/Res.6, annex I, para. 10(i): “also requests the Bureau to continue 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 further requests the Bureau to continue to consult with all States Parties on the topic and submit a report, ahead of the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly”.

¹¹ Including the desirability and feasibility of establishing regional representations (see ICC-ASP/24/Res.6, annex I, para. 5(b)), and the development of criteria for assessing requests for waivers from the loss of voting rights (see ICC-ASP/24/Res.3, para. 4).

¹² Including issues relating to the permanent premises.

* * *