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PRESIDENCY OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

Commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

17 July 2023, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Biographies

OPENING CEREMONY

Ms. Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, President, Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute



Ms. Fernández de Gurmendi assumed functions as the President of the Assembly of States Parties to the ICC for a three-year term on 12 February 2020. Prior to her tenure, she was a Judge at the ICC, notably as its President from 2015 to 2018.

Throughout her career, Ms. Fernández de Gurmendi has been involved in the creation, startup and functioning of the ICC, including by presiding over the negotiation process of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence during the Preparatory Commission for the ICC and as Chef de Cabinet and Director in the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC.

Prior to her tenure at the ICC, Ms. Fernández de Gurmendi was a diplomat in the Argentinian Foreign Service, having served as the Legal Adviser to the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations and the Director General for Human Rights in the Argentinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, amongst other functions.

She is currently the Chair of the Global Action Against Mass Atrocities Crimes (GAAMAC), the President of the Latin American Society of International Law (LASIL-SLADI) and member of the Advisory Board of the Nuremberg Principles Academy.

Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel



Miguel de Serpa Soares was appointed the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel in September 2013. He oversees the Office of Legal Affairs, the overall objectives of which are to provide a unified central legal service for the United Nations

Mr. Serpa Soares has extensive experience of legal and international affairs, having represented his country in various bilateral and multilateral international forums, including the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, the Committee of Public International Law Advisers of the Council of Europe and the International Criminal Court's Assembly of State Parties.

Before taking up his current position, Mr. Serpa Soares was Director General of the Department of Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal from 2008. Earlier in his career, he acted as Legal Adviser to the Permanent Representation of

Portugal to the European Union, Brussels (1999-2008) and as Chef-de-Cabinet of the Deputy Minister for Infrastructure and Territorial Administration. He is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Mr. Serpa Soares has a degree in Law from the University of Lisbon and a degree in European Law from the College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium. He is a member of a number of entities in the field of International Law and has given lectures on topics of International Law in different Universities worldwide.

H.E. Ms. Maria Tripodi, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Italy)



Ms. Maria Tripodi was appointed Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation by the Italian Council of Ministers on 31 October 2022.

Throughout her political trajectory since 2005, she has covered topics such as international relations with the European Union, European funds, maritime and Mediterranean regions, cooperation with developing countries and migration flows with the Italian State-Regions Conference.

Prior to her current position, Ms. Tripodi has held multiple coordination and liaison roles with regional government bodies such as Governing Councils, Councils, Legislative Assemblies, Departments and the “European Community and International Affairs” Committee. She has held positions as a member of the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry into the death of Giulio Regeni (2019) during her tenure as an elected member of the Chamber of Deputies (2018), where she was also elected group leader of the Defence Standing Committee (2018). She has also been elected as the youth movement in the European Parliament for the Southern Italy constituency (2014) and Deputy National Secretary of the Young Italians group of the European People’s Party in Brussels (2011), appointed National Head of the Organisation Sector of the Italian youth (2010-2018), and elected to the Lazio Region’s Youth Forum (2005).

Ms. Tripodi has a degree in International and European Community Political Studies, specialising in International Relations, from the University of Rome “La Sapienza”, and a master’s degree in Economic Security, Geopolitics and Intelligence at The Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI) (2022). She is a former member of the Italian Society of Military History (SISM) and a consultant to public and private institutions.

Judge Piotr Hofmański, President, International Criminal Court



Judge Piotr Hofmański has an illustrious judicial as well as academic career. A graduate of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń with degrees in Master of laws (1978), Doctor of laws (1981), and habilitation (1989), he has served as professor of criminal law at several esteemed universities in Poland and he is an author of more than 300 books, commentaries, and articles. He started his judicial career in 1994 as a judge of the Appellate Court in Białystok and in 1996 he was appointed judge of the Criminal Chamber of the Polish Supreme Court. He has been judge of the International Criminal Court since 11 March 2015 and President of the Court since 11 March 2021.

H.E. Mr. Lloyd Axworthy, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada



Lloyd Axworthy P.C., C.C., O.M., is the chair of the World Refugee and Migration Council, an international body established to develop solutions to problems in the current refugee system.

Dr. Axworthy led Canada's election observation mission to Ukraine in 2019. He recently served as Board Chair of CUSO International, a Canadian-based international development agency and is on the executive committee of the International Institute of Sustainable Development. He is past member of the Boards of the MacArthur Foundation and Human Rights Watch. From 2004 to 2014, Dr. Axworthy was the President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg. In his ten years he pioneered community learning programs for Aboriginal and low-income youth.

He served seven years as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba and twenty-one years as an elected member of the Canadian Parliament, holding several Cabinet posts, including Minister of Employment and Immigration, Western Diversification and Minister of Foreign Affairs. In that position he was known for his work in advancing the Human Security agenda that included the Treaty on anti-personnel land mines, the International Criminal Court, and the Protocol on Child Soldiers. In 1997, he was nominated by United States Senator Patrick Leahy for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on banning land mines. In 2002, he was awarded The Order of Canada and in 2016, he was made a Companion - the highest rank of the Order.

In 2004, he published a book, *Navigating a New World*.

In August 2017, The American Political Science Association awarded him the Hubert H. Humphrey award for notable public service. The United Nations Association awarded him the Lester B. Pearson Medal. Lloyd Axworthy holds a BA from the University of Winnipeg, and Ph.D from Princeton University. In addition, he has received sixteen honorary doctorates since leaving. He lives in Ottawa with his wife, Denise Ommanney. They have three children.

Mr. William R. Pace, Former Convenor, Coalition for the International Criminal Court



William Pace was the founding Convenor of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court and a co-founder of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect. Pace has been engaged in international justice, rule of law, environmental law, and human rights for four decades, serving as executive director of the World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy, secretary-general of The Hague Appeal for Peace, director of the Center for the Development of International Law. He is the recipient of the William J. Butler Human Rights Medal from the Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights.

Ms. Minou Tavárez Mirabal, Chair, Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims



Minou Tavárez Mirabal, is a Dominican philologist and politician recognized nationally and internationally for her commitment to democracy, justice, the defence of human rights, the fight for equality and non-discrimination. Since her youth, her work has been characterized by defending human rights and the creation of transparent, human rights based and efficient institutions.

She led the involvement of the Dominican Republic at the Rome Conference of 1998. Her legislative initiatives and political mobilization were key to securing the Dominican Republic's ratification of the Rome Statute in 2005, of the APIC in 2008, and to advancing the national implementation of the Statute in her country.

Minou was Vice Chancellor of the Dominican Republic for four years and was a legislator for three terms (2002-2006, 2006-2010 and 2010-2016). As a national legislator, and as a member and later as President of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), Minou has worked for more than 20 years for the mission of the Rome Statute and for the strengthening of the ICC and the Trust Fund. From PGA she actively worked in 76 countries, hand in hand with Court officials, donors and other legislators to achieve the universal ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute.

Ms. Melinda Reed, Acting Convenor, Coalition for the International Criminal Court



Melinda Reed (United States) has over 15 years of international relief and development experience. Ms. Reed spent over four years as the Executive Director of The Friendship Center, a local domestic and sexual violence organization in Montana. During her time at The Friendship Center, Ms. Reed helped to establish Montana's first High Risk Offender Task Force and worked with partners to improve the community's response to domestic and sexual violence. She served as the Executive Director of the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice from 2018 through June 2023, and has been the Acting Convenor of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court since December 2019.

Ms. Reed has lead emergency response teams in conflict zones and natural disasters and managed programs in Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Middle East. She has worked on projects and programmes focused on conflict mitigation, livelihoods development, psychosocial support, shelter, and logistics. Ms. Reed's experience includes both short term emergency deployments and long term project assignments in Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lebanon and Iraq.

Mr. Karim A. A. Khan KC, Prosecutor, International Criminal Court



On 12 February 2021, Mr Karim A. A. Khan KC was elected as Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) at the nineteenth session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute in New York. Mr Khan was sworn in on 16 June 2021.

Karim was an Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and served as the first Special Adviser and Head of the United Nations Investigative Team to promote accountability for crimes committed by Da'esh/ISIL in Iraq (UNITAD) between 2018 to 2021. UNITAD was established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2379 (2017), to promote accountability efforts for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by Da'esh/ISIL.

Karim is a barrister and King's Counsel with more than 30 years of professional experience as an international criminal law and human rights lawyer. He has extensive experience as a prosecutor, victim's counsel and defence lawyer in domestic and international criminal tribunals, including, but not limited to, the International Criminal Court, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and the Special Court for Sierra Leone. He has also represented victims of human rights violations in Africa and Asia. Karim is a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn and was appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court in 2018. He was elected as the second President of the ICC Bar Association in July 2017 and is a worldwide Ambassador of the African Bar

Association. He has published a number of leading texts on international criminal law and is the co-author of 'Archbold International Criminal Courts', now in US 5th edition.

The holder of a Bachelor of Laws degree with Honours from King's College, University of London, in addition to various other degrees and qualifications.

Panel I

15:00-15:55

Connecting the dots: Strengthening the international criminal law ecosystem

H.E. Mr. Robert Keith Rae, Vice-President, Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute



Bob Rae is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York. He served as Premier of Ontario from 1990-1995, interim Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada from 2011-2013 and was appointed as Canada's Special Envoy to Myanmar (2017) and Canada's Special Envoy on Humanitarian and Refugee Issues (2020). From 1996 to 2008, he was a partner at Goodmans LLP and wrote government reports on the Air India bombing and higher education in Ontario. He also served as Chair of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Conservatory of Music, the Institute for Research in Public Policy and the Forum of Federations. Mr. Rae taught law and public policy at the University of Toronto and in the VicOne programme at Victoria College, and was a partner and senior counsel to the law firm OKT LLP from 2014 to 2020, specializing in indigenous law and

constitutional issues. Bob Rae is a Privy Councillor, a Companion of the Order of Canada, and a member of the Order of Ontario.

Ms. Catherine Marchi-Uhel, Head, International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism on Syria



Catherine Marchi-Uhel is the first Head of the IIMM. Prior to her appointment in July 2017, she was the Ombudsperson for the Security Council Committee concerning ISIL/Da'esh, Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. Previously a judge in France, she served in the same capacity with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. She was Senior Legal Officer and Head of Chambers at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and also held legal positions in France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with United Nations peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Liberia.

Mr. Dapo Akande, Professor, Oxford University



Dapo Akande is Professor of Public International Law at the University of Oxford, a Member of the United Nations International Law Commission, and a barrister at Essex Court Chambers, London. He has acted as advocate, counsel or adviser in cases before international tribunals, including the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the European Court of Human Rights, the International Criminal Court and the World Trade Organization panels. He regularly provides advice on international law issues to states, international organizations and civil society organizations.

Dapo is one of the authors of the Oppenheim's International Law: The United Nations (2017, OUP) which was awarded the Certificate of Merit by the American Society of International Law, and an editor of the Oxford Guide to International Humanitarian Law (2020, OUP). He is one of the editors of the scholarly blog - EJIL:Talk! and has served on the editorial boards of several leading international law journals including the American Journal of International Law, the European Journal of International Law and the African Journal of International and Comparative Law.

Ms. Anta Guissé, Counsel for the Defence



Anta Guissé has been a practising criminal defence lawyer at the Paris Bar (France) since 1999. She has more than 20 years of experience in defence teams before international courts. Ms Guissé has worked in several cases before International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (2002-2010). She has been the international lawyer for former Head of State KHIEU Samphân before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (2012-2023), and a counsel before the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (2021). In late 2021, Ms Guissé has joined the Defence of Mr Alfred YEKATOM before the International Criminal Court. She is also one of the lawyers for the family of the late Head of State Thomas Sankara in the trial of his assassination before the Military Tribunal in Burkina Faso.

Ms. Ekaterina Trendafilova, former Judge, International Criminal Court



H.E. President Ekaterina Trendafilova from Bulgaria was appointed President of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers as of December 2016 and took office on 12 January 2017. H.E.

H.E. President Trendafilova served as a Judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC) from March 2006 to March 2015.

H.E. President Trendafilova advised the Ministry of Justice of Bulgaria on the establishment of the ICC and served as an expert to the Ministry of Justice and the Parliament of Bulgaria. She headed the working group on the reform of the Bulgarian Criminal Procedure Code in line with European and international standards for efficient administration of justice and protection of human rights (1998-1999), was the representative of Bulgaria at the UN Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (1992-1994) and served as a Deputy District Attorney at the Sofia District Court (1985-1989) as well as a barrister with the Sofia bar (1995-2006).

H.E. President Trendafilova has been an Alexander von Humboldt (1993-1994) and a Fulbright fellow (1997). She completed her PhD in 1984 and is an expert in the field of criminal justice, human rights, international and comparative criminal justice.

Panel II

16:00-16:55

Ensuring adequate remedy to victims of Rome Statute Crimes

Ms. Deborah Ruiz Verduzco, Executive Director, Secretariat of the Trust Fund for Victims



Ms. Deborah Ruiz Verduzco is the Executive Director of the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) at the International Criminal Court (ICC). In this capacity Ms. Ruiz Verduzco is responsible for ensuring the TFV is successfully implementing its mission to give effect to victims' right to reparations (which may take the form of restitution, compensation or rehabilitation), facilitate the implementation of awards made by the ICC against convicted persons and undertake initiatives for the benefit of victims and their families. Through its programmes and activities the TFV aims to contribute to redressing the harm suffered by victims of Rome Statute crimes.

Mr. Chang-ho Chung, Judge, International Criminal Court



Chang-ho Chung from The Republic of Korea is a Judge of the International Criminal Court serving in the Trial Division from 2015. At the ICC, he is the Presiding Judge of the Trial Chamber II, Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Legal Texts, and Sponsor of the Judicial Workflow Platform.

Prior to the ICC, Judge Chung served as a UN International Judge in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia from 2011. At the ECCC, he was a member of both the Rules and Procedure Committee and the Judicial Administration Committee. Prior to the ECCC, Judge Chung served in several positions as a Judge in The Republic of Korea from 1993.

Judge Chung holds a B.A. in Law and an LL.M. in International Law from Seoul National University. He has also been a Research Scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science (2001), as well as at the University of Hong Kong (2005).

Mr. Fabian Salvioli, UN Special Rapporteur on truth, justice and reparation



Fabián Salvioli (Argentina) is a human rights lawyer and professor. He has lectured in many countries and universities across the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia. Mr. Salvioli has authored several books and articles on international human rights law. He was member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee between 2009 and 2016, and its President between 2015 and 2016. Mr. Salvioli served twice as member and three times as president of Ad-Hoc Arbitration Courts on Monetary Reparations, within the Friendly Settlement Mechanism of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In May 2018, he was appointed as UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.

Ms. Evelyne Ombeni, Legal Representative of Victims, International Criminal Court



Ms. Evelyne Ombeni is a Trial Lawyer working within the Legal Representation for Victims (LRV) Team of the International Criminal Court. Since 2010, she is part of the LRV in various cases in the situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in the Central Africa Republic (CAR) and in Darfur (Sudan).

She holds an International Public Law Master's Degree (Université Protestante du Congo, DRC) and a Master's Degree in International Law and European Law of Fundamental Rights (University of Nantes, France).

Ms. Ombeni has 15 year-professional experience working within the International Criminal Justice.

Ms. Danya Chaikel, Representative to the International Criminal Court, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



Danya Chaikel, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) Representative to the International Criminal Court, is a qualified barrister and solicitor, and a member of the Law Society of British Columbia (Canada), specializing in international criminal law and justice. She has worked at international criminal courts and tribunals, including the ICC, ICTY, and the SPO (Kosovo) as well as UN bodies, NGOs, and professional legal bodies.

As a feminist human rights advocate, she has worked for over 20 years on various social justice issues affecting marginalized groups and victims of crimes including refugee rights, human trafficking, accountability for grave international crimes, gender justice, fair trial rights, and addressing workplace misconduct in international justice institutions. Danya is Co-Vice Chair of the International Bar Association's War Crimes Committee and an organizing member of the ATLAS network of female lawyers working in public international law.

Panel III

17:00-17:50

Strengthening the Rome Statute system: The Review Mechanism and beyond

Mr. Mark Ellis, Executive Director, International Bar Association



As Executive Director of the International Bar Association (IBA), Mark Ellis leads the foremost international organisation of bar associations, law firms, and individual lawyers in the world. Dr Ellis has served as Legal Advisor to the Independent International Commission on Kosovo and was appointed by OSCE to advise on the creation of Serbia's War Crimes Tribunal. He was actively involved with the Iraqi High Tribunal and also acted as legal advisor to the defence team of Nuon Chea at the Cambodian War Crimes Tribunal (ECCC). In 2013, Dr. Ellis was admitted to the List of Assistants to Counsel of the International Criminal Court. In 2015, he was appointed to the UN-

created Advisory Panel on Matters Relating to Defence Counsel of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals.

H.E. Mr. Paul van den Ijssel, State Party Representative for the Review Mechanism (Netherlands)



Career Foreign Service

Joined Foreign Service of the Netherlands in 1985. Held several posts at Embassies a.o. in Nigeria, Poland and Germany and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was appointed Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva (CD). From 2013 to 2016, Ambassador for the Netherlands in Jordan. From 2017 to 2021 Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the OPCW and to the ICC. In 2022 appointed as Ambassador for International Organisations in the Netherlands. In 2021, he was appointed by the Assembly as State Party Representative in the ICC Review Mechanism.

Publications

Various articles on arms control, security policy and public international law.

H.E. Mr. Michael Kanu, State Party Representative for the Review Mechanism (Sierra Leone)



Michael Imran Kanu, SJD is Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations. He is Co-Chair of the Review Mechanism and previously coordinated the African Group on the IER review process. He was focal point for the African Group in the election of the Prosecutor of the ICC in 2021. He represents Sierra Leone in the Oversight Committee of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the Executive Board of Justice Rapid Response, where he is currently Vice Chair. He holds a LL.B from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, LL.M and SJD from the Central European University. He is a UN International Law Fellow.

Mr. Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Registrar, International Criminal Court



On 10 February 2023, Mr. Osvaldo Zavala Giler was elected as Registrar of the International Criminal Court, marking the first time a national from the Latin American and the Caribbean group of States, and a former ICC staff member, assumed this role. Prior to his election, Mr. Zavala Giler held various positions at the ICC, including Chief of the Budget Section, Senior Special Assistant to the Registrar, and Head of the Court's Liaison Office to the United Nations in New York. He is also a founding member of the Sexual and Gender Diversity Network at the Court. Previously, he worked for the Coalition for the ICC and in a law firm in Ecuador. Mr. Zavala Giler graduated as a lawyer from the Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil in Ecuador and is a licensed member of the Foro de Abogados of Ecuador.

Ms. Elizabeth Evenson, Associate Director, Human Rights Watch



Liz Evenson is the international justice director at Human Rights Watch. Previously as associate director in the International Justice Program, she monitored the International Criminal Court's institutional development and conducted advocacy toward court officials and states parties. She joined Human Rights Watch in 2006 as a Leonard H. Sandler fellow. During periods of leave from Human Rights Watch, Liz has worked with No Peace Without Justice and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court. She holds degrees from the University of Chicago, the University of Nottingham School of Law, and Columbia Law School.
