

ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

Concept note for the commemoration process of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

a) General overview

The commemoration of the adoption of the Rome Statute is intended to celebrate this extraordinary achievement of the international community; to provide visibility and enhance political support for the Rome Statute system; to encourage those who had not yet done so to join the system; and to reflect on its future. To this effect, segments of the commemoration will be devoted to a discussion on the strategic vision for the next ten years as recommended by Independent Expert Review (IER). Furthermore, part of the event will take the form of a treaty accession ceremony in relation to the Rome Statute, its amendments and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities, as well as voluntary cooperation agreements with the Court.

Considering these multiple objectives and expected outcome, the commemoration process will be composed of three main events:

1. Opening of the exhibit “Life After Conflict” in the Hague, Netherlands on 12 July 2023 at 17:00;
2. Commemoration event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 17 July 2023; and
3. Commemoration event at Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights on 12 and 13 October 2023.

b) Overview of the three commemorative events

1. Opening of the exhibit “Life After Conflict” in The Hague, Netherlands

Date: Wednesday, 12 July 2023 at 17:00, followed by a reception

Venue: The Hague City Hall, Atrium C, The Hague, Netherlands

An International Criminal Court (ICC) exhibition entitled “Life After Conflict” will be on display in The Hague in July/August 2023. The 2023 display will be part of the commemorations for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Rome Statute on 17 July 2023.

Through stories told by survivors of atrocity crimes, the exhibit shows the impact of the Rome Statute system and the Court’s work. The photographs, by award-winning photographers Rena Effendi, Pete Muller and Finbarr O’Reilly, cover stories from five countries in which the ICC has conducted investigations, all at different stages of the ICC process.

The Assembly of States Parties would like to express its gratitude to the European Commission, the Netherlands, and the Municipality of the Hague, as well as the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, for their generous financial support for the commemorative events.

2. Commemoration event to take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York

Date: Monday, 17 July 2023

Duration: one day (two segments of three hours each from 10:00 to 13:00 and 15:00 to 18:00)

Interpretation into English, French and Spanish (to be confirmed)

The commemorative day at the United Nations will be divided in two sessions of three hours each. The programme will be conveyed in the coming weeks.

The morning session will encompass an opening ceremony and will be followed by a brief high-level, in-person Ministerial Roundtable on the strategic vision for the next decade of the Court open only to the Ministerial Level Representatives and a representative of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC).¹ The morning session will end with a treaty ceremony for depositaries of instruments of ratification/accession, amendments to the Rome Statute, as well as the signing of voluntary cooperation agreements or the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities with the Court.

The afternoon session will be devoted to a continuation of the discussion on the strategic vision for the next decade: how to ensure consistent and sustainable support for the ICC through three distinct panels organized around some key themes for the Court and the Rome Statute system. These will include:

- a. Connecting the dots: Strengthening the international criminal law ecosystem: The role of the ICC as part of a global ecosystem of justice, intended to allow for a discussion of the complementarity regime and current cooperative trends with national systems and other accountability efforts;
- b. Ensuring adequate remedy to victims of Rome Statute crimes, dedicated to a reflection on victims participation and reparation within the Rome Statute system; and
- c. Strengthening the Rome Statute system: The Review Mechanism and beyond: The strengthening of the Rome Statute system through the current Review process will be coming to a closure in 2023. This panel is intended to take stock of what has been accomplished and to identify the way forward after its conclusion.

The commemorative event will be followed by a reception at the United Nations Headquarters hosted by the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations.

3. Commemoration event to take place at the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights

Date: Thursday, 12 and Friday, 13 October 2023

Duration: 1.5 days

Hybrid event, with online interaction from invitees, to be streamed on social platforms aimed at continuing and broadening the discussion initiated in New York on the strategic vision for the next decade: how to ensure consistent and sustainable support for the ICC.

¹ Information regarding inscription to the list of speakers will be communicated prior to the event.

A declaration or recommendations resulting from discussions in New York and Siracusa, if any, may be adopted by State Parties at the twenty-second session of the Assembly of States Parties to be held in New York from 4 to 14 December 2023.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The Hague



Permanent Mission of Italy
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