Guidelines on media access to the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

World Forum Convention Center, The Hague
30 November – 7 December 2026

Preamble

The following guidelines between the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties (SASP) and the media accredited to cover the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly of State Parties (ASP) governs media access to the twenty-fifth session, to be held from 30 November to 7 December 2026. During times of heightened security, additional restrictions may apply.

The purpose of these guidelines is to grant as much access as possible to members of the press while safeguarding the World Forum Convention Center ("Assembly premises") and ensuring the safety, security and comfort of all participants: staff, delegates and press alike.

Journalists who are granted access to the Assembly premises must abide by the policies in place. Any violations may result in withdrawal of accreditation.

1. Media access in general

a. Journalists and media personnel are required to read these guidelines and adhere to them.

b. All journalists and media personnel accessing the Assembly premises with equipment must pass through the security screening entrance.

c. All camera crews accessing the Assembly premises with equipment must pass through the security screening entrance between 08:00 and 09:00 hours daily.

d. Journalists and media personnel may access authorized areas of the Assembly premises, escorted by a member of the SASP, after they and their equipment have passed through security screening, unless the International Criminal Court (ICC) Security has declared a heightened period of security.

e. Journalists and media personnel are not permitted to sign in guests.

f. Journalists and media personnel may access only through the entrance between 08:00 and 18:00 hours.

g. Journalists and media personnel may be seated at the balcony of the King Willem Alexander conference room.

h. Due to space or confidentiality restrictions , access of journalists and media personnel to side events, i.e. events not part of the official Assembly meetings in either in-person or virtual format would need to be authorised directly with the respective organizer of the side event.

2. Media access to restricted areas

a. All journalists and media personnel may have access to the Ground Floor area in front of the conference rooms South America, Central America and North America (*hereafter*: "the Canal") **with an escort from the SASP.**

b. Journalists and media personnel may interview officials on the ground floor of the Assembly premises if they have a scheduled appointment. However, broadcast correspondents must notify the SASP prior to the interview.

c. Broadcast correspondents conducting TV "stand-ups" within the Assembly premises, should notify the SASP, who will notify ICC Security prior to the event. If notification of SASP is not possible, the correspondents must notify the ICC Security directly.

d. The media may not congregate or conduct interviews at the Delegates' Entrance (the west hallway to the King Willem Alexander between conference rooms Africa, Antarctica and Asia).

e. All accredited journalists and media personnel may access the King Willem Alexander room, between conference rooms South and Central America ") without an escort.

f. Journalists and media personnel may move around in the Canal area and conduct interviews.

g. All media, in particular TV camera crews, must remain in the designated balcony area of the King Willem Alexander at all times when the Assembly is in session. This location is also reserved for print media. Media will have escorted access to the extended area in front of conference rooms South America, Central America and North America upon request.

h. Accredited media may conduct interviews in the above mentioned areas. On-the-record interviews should be conducted in the Canal area. Journalists may move between the areas outside conference rooms South America, Central America and North America when the Assembly is in session. Under no circumstances should the staircases and the hallway between conference rooms Africa, Antarctica and Asia leading to the King Willem Alexander be blocked.

i. Only hand-held voice recorders may be used for interviews. If the delegate wishes to do a TV interview, it should take place in the Canal area with SASP approval and escort.

j. The hallway in front of conference rooms Africa, Antarctica and Asia leading to the King Willem Alexander, is a restricted area, except after the meetings have ended.

k. Side events whether in-person or in virtual format are closed to press unless permission given by the respective organizers. The interested members of the press should contact respective Embassy hosting the given event.

3. General access for TV crews

a. All media are permitted access to open meetings in designated areas within the King Willem Alexander, i.e. between the podium and conference room North America, with time restrictions to broadcast media. Access during the plenaries with elections via secret ballot will be limited to the announcement of the results of the respective ballot.

b. TV correspondents and their crew are permitted to film and interview diplomats and officials, with their consent, in designated areas of general media access located in the Canal area.

c. All other areas **will require a SASP escort**. TV crews will only be permitted after prior consultation with the SASP who will provide an escort at all times.

4. Photo ops

Photo ops are limited to one minute maximum before the plenary sessions commence. If a large presence of visual media is present, they will be taken in two batches: first, the photographers, to be followed by the TV camera crew, or vice versa. SASP personnel will always be present at the photo ops. No questions are permitted during these photo ops.

5. Stakeout location

The Canal area between conference rooms South and Central America.

6. Media services and press kit

For general information, provisional programme of work of the twenty-fifth session, statements, speeches and press releases please refer to the website of the Assembly.

7. Areas open to all visual media:

Public Plenary meetings in designated areas (no flash permitted during meetings).

8. Areas closed to all visual media:

All media are only allowed to attend public plenary meetings in the King Willem Alexander conference room. All other rooms are closed to all media.

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