



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

Twenty-first meeting

2 September 2026

Agenda and decisions

The meeting was chaired by the President of the Assembly, Ambassador Païvi Kaukoranta (Finland). Vice-Presidents Ambassador Michael Imran Kanu (Sierra Leone) and Ambassador Margareta Kassangana (Poland) also participated.

1. Threats against the Court

The Bureau took note with regret of the sanctions imposed by the Government of the United States against the President of the International Criminal Court, Judge Tomoko Akane, and a senior trial lawyer working in the Office of the Prosecutor, and reiterated its support for the Court and its officials.

The Bureau further took note that, on 19 August 2026, the Presidency of the Assembly had issued a press release expressing deep regret at these actions and reiterating full support for the Court, its officials, and all those who contribute to the fulfilment of its judicial mandate.¹

The Bureau recalled the strategy for responding to threats or attacks against the Court, its officials and those cooperating with it, which had been adopted on 29 July 2022,² and decided to review that strategy at its next meeting. The Bureau also decided to invite President Akane, the Deputy Prosecutors and the Registrar to address the Bureau on the impact of the sanctions and the ongoing measures in response.

2. Election of the Prosecutor

The Bureau continued its consideration of the process for the election of the fourth Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, following the 24 July 2026 decision of the Assembly of States Parties to remove the third Prosecutor from office.² The Bureau had before it an options paper, dated 26 August 2026, which had been prepared to facilitate the Bureau's consideration of the issues involved. The Bureau decided to return to the matter at its next meeting, with the benefit of comments from the Hague and New York Working Groups on the various options.

¹ <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/press-releases/PR-20260819>.

² The strategy adopted by the Bureau on 29 July 2022 is available at the following link: <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/asp/files/2022-08/Bureau-Proposal-Rec-169-ENG.pdf>. An annex approved by the Bureau on 2 December 2022 is available at the following link: <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/asp/files/2022-12/PASP-Request-R169-Good-Practices.pdf>.

3. Preparations for the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly

a) Venue

The Bureau received an update on the preparations for the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly, scheduled to take place from 7 to 17 December 2026 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and discussed concerns related to limitations on participation arising from the venue of the session. The President indicated that she would consult with the Vice-Presidents, with the benefit of comments from the Hague and New York Working Groups, and the Bureau would return to the matter.

b) Seating arrangements

In accordance with Assembly decision ICC-ASP/1/Dec.4, the President drew lots to determine the State Party that would occupy the first desk on the Assembly floor: Burkina Faso.

c) Programme of work

The Bureau approved the programme of work for the twenty-fifth session,³ on the understanding that it would be updated in the coming months and would also be subject to modification during the session, depending on the progress on different agenda items.

d) General debate

The Bureau decided to inform States that the general debate would begin on Wednesday, 9 December from 15:00 to 18:00 and would continue on Thursday, 10 December from 10:00 to 13:00 and 15:00 to 18:00, with ministerial and vice-ministerial level representatives speaking first. The Bureau further decided that the general debate would only allow for in-person speakers. States and other stakeholders could submit pre-recorded video statements, but any such statements would not be played during the plenary, and rather posted on the webpage of the Assembly, together with written submissions.

(i) Time limits

The Bureau decided to recommend, on the basis of rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure and previous decisions of the Assembly, that speakers be requested to observe a strict time limit of five minutes for their statements. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to inform States of the opening of the list of speakers on 26 October 2026 (Central European Time), and of the time limit of five minutes for statements.

(ii) Participation of observers and non-governmental organizations

On the basis of previous Assembly decisions, the Bureau recommended that the Assembly allocate 45 minutes for the participation of observers, and 45 minutes for the participation of non-governmental organizations, at the end of the general debate.

e) Credentials Committee

The Bureau took note that, pursuant to rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of States Parties, the Credentials Committee shall be composed of nine States Parties. The President requested Bureau members to consult within their regional groups to identify States willing to be appointed to the Committee and to inform the Secretariat, preferably before the end of October 2026.

³ Available at: https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/ASP25.prov%20workprog.27Aug26.1540.pdf.

f) Nomination of national tellers

The Bureau took note that it would be necessary to appoint national tellers, one from each regional group, for the elections to be held during the session. The President encouraged Bureau members to consult within their regional groups and to inform the Secretariat of the identified candidates, preferably before the end of October 2026.

g) Nomination of a Rapporteur

As regards the appointment of a Rapporteur for the twenty-fifth session, the President noted that the Rapporteur should be a representative of a State Party on the Bureau, and should be from a regional group not represented in the Presidency of the Assembly. The President requested the Bureau members of the Asia-Pacific Group and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to consult in order to agree on one nominee for the position, and to inform the Secretariat, preferably before the end of October 2026.

h) Appointment of Coordinators

The Bureau agreed to recommend to the Assembly the appointment of the following coordinators for the consultations to be held during the session:

- Working Group on the Programme Budget: Ambassador Engelbert Theuermann (Austria)
- Omnibus resolution: Mr. Gregor Muischneek (Switzerland)

i) Side events

The Bureau decided that side events may tentatively be organized during the Assembly session, from 7 to 17 December 2026, and should not overlap with the meeting times of the Assembly in order to be reflected in the official Journal.⁴ The Bureau also decided that States, observers and non-governmental organizations wishing to hold side events during the twenty-fifth session should submit the necessary information to the Secretariat by 6 November 2026, with a view to the preparation of a draft advance Journal for dissemination during the week of 9 November 2026.

The Bureau took note that, at United Nations Headquarters, the Secretariat is not in charge of room allocation for side events, nor does the Secretariat cover any costs associated with these events. Delegations interested in organizing side events must request a conference room as well as all associated services and required equipment, such as interpretation, supplementary IT equipment or catering, directly with the United Nations via their respective Permanent Missions. The issuance of badges is controlled by United Nations Security. If a side event participant is not a delegate, nor accredited through a non-governmental organization, the organizing State must request the United Nations access pass on the participant's behalf. The sale of any printed materials or goods at the United Nations Headquarters during a side event or at any other time is strictly prohibited.

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

The Bureau took note of the status of the Trust Fund for the participation of Least Developed Countries and other Developing States, and encouraged States in a position to do so to contribute to the Trust Fund, preferably by the end of October 2026.

⁴ Further details regarding organization of the side events are reflected in the “Guidelines for the preparation and conduct of sessions of the Assembly”, available at: https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/Guidelines-preparation-conduct-ASP-with-appendix-ENG.pdf.

4. Requests for waivers of the loss of voting rights at the twenty-fifth session

The Bureau returned to its consideration of requests for waivers of the loss of voting rights at the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly, pursuant to resolution ICC-ASP/24/Res.3.⁵ The Bureau took note that, as at 31 August 2026, nine States Parties were subject to the loss of voting rights under article 112, paragraph 8, of the Rome Statute. Seven of those States Parties had submitted requests for waivers of the loss of voting rights, although some requests were only submitted in relation to the special session.⁶ In light of the fact that no detailed supporting documentation had been submitted with the requests, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to invite those States Parties who had submitted waiver requests to provide additional documentation in support of their requests by 23 October 2026, so the Bureau could take a decision on its recommendation to the Assembly at its November meeting.

5. Elections to be held at the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly

a) Election of judges

As regards the election of six judges to be held at the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly, the Bureau recalled that, at the close of the extended nomination period, on 10 May 2026, a total of 14 candidates had been nominated.⁷ The Advisory Committee on the Nominations of Judges had interviewed all 14 candidates and issued its report, containing an assessment of all candidates, on 5 August 2026.⁸ On 17 August 2026, the Secretariat had conveyed a communication from Tanzania concerning the withdrawal of a candidate.⁹

The Bureau recalled that public roundtables with the candidates were scheduled to take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 4 and 5 November 2026. As one of the candidates was subject to sanctions which would affect his ability to participate in person, the Secretariat was investigating options to ensure equal participation in the circumstances.

The Bureau received an update on the due diligence procedure conducted by the Independent Oversight Mechanism (IOM) pursuant to Assembly resolution ICC-ASP/22/Res.3, annex II.¹⁰ The Assembly Presidency had received the report from the IOM and had requested written observations from the Advisory Committee; once received, the written observations and the IOM report would be submitted to the Bureau and the Bureau would discuss the way forward.

b) Election of members of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims

The Bureau took note that, at the close of the nomination period for the election of members of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims on 19 July 2026, one candidate had been nominated for the seat allocated to the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and four candidates had been nominated for the seat allocated to the African Group.¹¹ The Bureau recommended that the Assembly dispense with a secret ballot and elect by acclamation the candidate from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Ms. Mônica Jacqueline Sifuentes (Brazil). As regards the seat allocated to the African Group, the Bureau requested the nominating States to consult in order to identify one candidate for election.

⁵ https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/ICC-ASP-24-Res.3-w-annex-ENG.pdf.

⁶ Antigua and Barbuda; Chad; Congo; Dominica; Gabon; Liberia; Venezuela.

⁷ Information concerning the nominations is available on the Assembly website at the following link: <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/elections/judges/2026>.

⁸ https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/Report%20ACN.05Aug26.1000.pdf.

⁹ https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/ICC-ASP-25-3-Add2-ENG-judges-elections-withdrawal-17Aug26.pdf.

¹⁰ https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/ICC-ASP-22-Res3-ENG.pdf.

¹¹ <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/elections/trust-fund-for-victims/2026>.

c) Election of members of the Committee on Budget and Finance

The Bureau took note that, at the close of the extended nomination period for the election of members of the Committee on Budget and Finance on 30 August 2026, six candidates had been nominated for the six regular vacancies.¹² The Bureau therefore recommended that the Assembly elect the following six candidates by acclamation:

- Mr. Marco Giorgio Roberto Blasi (Italy);
- Ms. Neila Chabchoub (Tunisia);
- Ms. Satoko Sawada (Japan);
- Ms. Mateja Vraničar Erman (Slovenia);
- Mr. Fawzi Gharaibeh (Jordan); and
- Mr. Jorge Carvajal San Martin (Chile).

The Bureau took note that no candidates had been nominated for the vacancy for the Eastern European Group resulting from the expansion of the Committee's membership in resolution ICC-ASP/22/Res.8. The vacancy would therefore remain unfilled, and the Bureau would consider opening a new nomination period in conjunction with other elections in 2027.

d) Bureau for the twenty-sixth to twenty-eighth sessions of the Assembly

The Bureau recalled that, at its twenty-fifth session, the Assembly will elect a President, two Vice-Presidents, and eighteen members of the Bureau, for the twenty-sixth to twenty-eighth sessions of the Assembly. In accordance with the principle of regional rotation which had been observed by the Assembly in the election of Presidents of the Assembly, it would be for the Eastern European Group to propose the next President of the Assembly. The Bureau took note that discussions were ongoing in the regional groups on this matter.

6. Withdrawals from the Rome Statute

The President referred to the depositary notifications issued by the United Nations Secretary-General concerning the withdrawal from the Rome Statute by Chad¹³ and Venezuela.¹⁴ The Assembly President had issued a press release on 7 August 2026 expressing regret at these developments and calling on those States to remain committed States Parties to the Rome Statute.¹⁵

7. Stratus of contributions

The Bureau took note that, as at 31 August 2026, the Court had received 95 per cent of the assessed contributions to the approved budget for 2026. The total amount of outstanding contributions was €36.3 million, of which €10.6 million related to the 2026 budget, and €25.7 million to prior years. A total of 27 States Parties had outstanding contributions of more than one year, and 9 of those were ineligible to vote under article 112, paragraph 8, of the Rome Statute. The President encouraged all States Parties to make their contributions to the budget of the Court as soon as possible.

¹² <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/elections/committee-on-budget-and-finance/2026>.

¹³ <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2026/CN.291.2026-Eng.pdf>.

¹⁴ <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2026/CN.298.2026-Eng.pdf>.

¹⁵ <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/press-releases/PR-20260807>.

8. Other matters

a) Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council: Joint communication

The Bureau took note of the joint communication under the Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council,¹⁶ received by the President on 23 July 2026, as well as the President's response thereto, dated 27 August 2026.

b) Confidential letter

The President briefed the Bureau on a confidential letter, dated 28 August 2026, addressed to the President of the Assembly.

c) Appointment of mandate-holders

The Bureau appointed Ms. Keke Motsepe (South Africa) as the Bureau focal point on the scheduling of Assembly sessions. The Bureau also recalled that, on 31 August 2026, the Bureau had appointed Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro (Mexico) as co-chair of the Study Group on Governance.

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¹⁶ The joint communication was from three Special Rapporteurs: the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences.