



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES

Twenty-third meeting

28 September 2026

Agenda and decisions

The meeting was chaired by the President of the Assembly, Ambassador Paivi Kaukoranta (Finland).

1. Election of judges to be held at the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly

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.¹ 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 2026.² On 17 August and 17 September 2026, respectively, the Secretariat had conveyed communications from Tanzania³ and Colombia⁴ concerning the withdrawal of their candidates.

The President consulted the Bureau on a request received from a State Party regarding the possible reactivation of a judicial candidature withdrawn by the nominating State Party, and Bureau members exchanged views on the matter.

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

a) Venue

Having undertaken consultations within the regional groups, and in the absence of an objection from any State Party, the Bureau reaffirmed its 10 September 2026 decision to relocate the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly to The Hague. The session would take place from 30 November to 7 December 2026, with Saturday, 5 December and Sunday, 6 December, as working days.

b) Programme of work

The Bureau approved a revised provisional programme of work for the twenty-fifth session,⁵ 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.

¹ Information concerning the nominations is available on the Assembly website at the following link: <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/elections/judges/2026>.

² [ICC-ASP/25/8](#).

³ [ICC-ASP/25/3/Add.2](#).

⁴ [ICC-ASP/25/3/Add.3](#).

⁵ Available at: https://asp.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/asp_docs/ASP25_prov_workprog.25Sept26.1015.pdf.

c) Side-events

The President informed the Bureau that some adjustments would be required to the usual arrangements for the session given the limited time available for preparations, and noted that further information would be circulated as soon as the arrangements had been confirmed.

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

The President encouraged additional contributions to the Trust Fund for the participation of Least Developing Countries and other Developing States, particularly in light of the venue change and the scheduled elections.

3. Other matters

a) Withdrawal from the Rome Statute

The President referred to the depositary notification issued by the United Nations Secretary-General concerning the withdrawal from the Rome Statute by Naoero⁶ and noted that the Assembly Presidency would issue a press release expressing regret at this development and calling on Naoero to remain a committed State Party to the Rome Statute.⁷

b) Confidential letter

The President briefed the Bureau on a confidential letter, dated 10 September 2026, addressed to the President of the Assembly.

c) Evaluation Programme Committee: update

The Bureau approved the temporary replacement of a member of the Evaluation Programme Committee, Ms. Sarah Honeywell (United Kingdom), by Mr. Daniel Mellor (United Kingdom), until June 2027. The President informed the Bureau that the first meeting of the Evaluation Programme Committee would be held in early October 2026.

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⁶ <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2026/CN.378.2026-Eng.pdf>.

⁷ The press release was issued on 30 September 2026 (<https://asp.icc-cpi.int/press-releases/PR-20260930>).