

**Twenty-third session**

The Hague, 2-7 December 2024

**Report of the Bureau on the arrears of States Parties****I. Introduction**

1. Pursuant to articles 112, 115 and 117 of the Rome Statute, the expenses of the Court and of the Assembly of States Parties (“the Assembly”), as outlined in the budget considered and decided by the Assembly, shall be provided by, inter alia, contributions made by States Parties. The contributions of States Parties shall be assessed in accordance with an agreed scale of assessment based on the scale adopted by the United Nations for its regular budget and adjusted in accordance with the principles on which that scale is based.

2. Pursuant to regulation 105.1 of the Financial Regulations and Rules, “assessed contributions and advances shall be considered as due and payable in full within thirty days of the receipt of the communication of the Registrar referred to in regulation 5.5 or as of the first day of the calendar year to which they relate, whichever is the later.” For the purposes of this report, lack of full payment within this timeframe is considered an “outstanding contribution.” Pursuant to the same regulation, “[a]s of 1 January of the following calendar year, the unpaid balance of such contributions and advances shall be considered to be one year in arrears.” Further, as per article 112, paragraph 8, of the Rome Statute, “a State Party which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions towards the costs of the Court shall have no vote in the Assembly and in the Bureau if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a State Party to vote in the Assembly and in the Bureau if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the State Party.”

3. The Assembly has regularly “emphasize[d] the importance of endowing the Court with the necessary financial resources, and urge[d] all States Parties to the Rome Statute to transfer their assessed contributions in full and by the deadline for contributions or, in the event of pre-existing arrears, immediately, in accordance with article 115 of the Rome Statute, rule 105.1 of the Financial Regulations and Rules, and other relevant decisions taken by the Assembly.”<sup>1</sup>

4. At its twenty-second session, the Assembly decided “that the Bureau, through the President of the Assembly, the Coordinator of the working group and the facilitator, should continue to monitor the status of payments received throughout the financial year of the Court and consider additional measures to promote payments by all States Parties, as appropriate, continue to engage in dialogue with States Parties that have outstanding contributions or are in arrears, and via the annual facilitation on the topic of arrears, report thereon to the Assembly at its twenty-third session.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ICC-ASP/12/Res.8, para 60; ICC-ASP/13/Res.5, para 86.; ICC-ASP/14/Res.4, para. 100; ICC-ASP/15/Res.5, para. 117; ICC-ASP/16/Res.6, para. 127; ICC-ASP/17/Res.5, para. 144; ICC-ASP/18/Res.6, para. 147; ICC-ASP/19/Res.6, para. 151; ICC-ASP/20/Res.5, para. 156; ICC-ASP/21/Res.2, para. 159; ICC-ASP/22/Res.3, para. 152.

<sup>2</sup> ICC-ASP/22/Res.3, annex 1, para.16 (b).

5. Also at its twenty-second session, in the resolution on the budget,<sup>3</sup> the Assembly noted with serious concern the state of arrears and the liquidity issues facing the Court, and the associated operational risk, underlined the importance of endowing the Court with the necessary financial resources and the relevant provisions of resolution ICC-ASP/4/Res.4 concerning timely payments of assessed contributions and arrears, urged all States Parties to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Court, and decided to keep the issue under review and continue to consider the relevant recommendations of the report of the Independent Expert Review, the Committee, the External Auditor and other bodies.<sup>4</sup> The Assembly also welcomed the Court's development of guidelines, consistent with existing rules and regulations, for States Parties which are in arrears and subject to the provisions of article 112, paragraph 8, of the Rome Statute, and which face significant economic hardship, to enter into voluntary and sustainable payment plans, strongly encouraged States Parties in arrears and subject to the provisions of article 112, paragraph 8, to work voluntarily, in coordination with the Court, to develop such payment plans, and further requested the Court to keep States Parties informed of any such payment plans and their implementation through The Hague Working Group facilitation on the budget, including via the monthly financial reports provided to States.<sup>5</sup>

6. As of the date of this report, a facilitator had not been identified by the Bureau for the topic of arrears. In his role as Vice-President and Coordinator of the New York Working Group, Ambassador Michael Imran Kanu (Sierra Leone) monitored the status of contributions to the Court and undertook the functions of the facilitator on arrears throughout the reporting period.

7. The objectives of the facilitation on the topic of arrears are as follows:

- a) To find ways to ensure that no assessed contributions to the Court remain outstanding, by promoting a culture of financial discipline;
- b) To seek ways of cooperating with States Parties that have not met their financial obligations in order to reverse any outstanding balances;
- c) To examine what could be done in the cases in which these outstanding contributions amount to arrears under article 112 of the Rome Statute and/or when obligations have not been met due to circumstances beyond the control of the States Parties in question;
- d) To keep under review the mechanism allowing States Parties to seek exemptions from article 112; and
- e) To enhance communication among the Assembly, the Court and States Parties in arrears, so as to address the issue of outstanding assessed contributions more effectively.

## II. Status of contributions and arrears

8. As of 31 October 2024, the total outstanding contributions, including for the regular budget, the Working Capital Fund, the Contingency Fund, and the host State loan, stood at €32.7 million.

9. As of 31 October 2024, 47 States Parties had outstanding contributions for the 2024 budget, and 27 States Parties were in arrears, 13 of which were ineligible to vote and were required to make a minimum payment in order to avoid the application of article 112, paragraph 8, of the Rome Statute.

10. In the reports on the work of its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions, the Committee on Budget and Finance ("the Committee") reviewed the status of contributions and arrears. During its forty-fourth session, the Committee continued to encourage all States Parties to pay their contributions to the Court in full and on time. Furthermore, the Committee continued to urge that the States Parties with outstanding contributions settle their dues with the Court as soon as possible, and if need be, to establish a payment plan with the Court.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> ICC-ASP/22/Res.4.

<sup>4</sup> ICC-ASP/22/Res.4, section C, para. 1.

<sup>5</sup> ICC-ASP/22/Res.4, section C, para.2.

<sup>6</sup> ICC-ASP/23/15, para. 39.

11. During its forty-fifth session the Committee reiterated its previous recommendations and encouraged States Parties to continue to settle their dues on time and as early as possible in the year, as this enables the Court to avoid a liquidity crisis.<sup>7</sup>

### **III. Independent Expert Review**

12. As regards recommendation 140 of the Independent Expert Review,<sup>8</sup> which noted the concerning state of arrears and the potential liquidity crisis facing the Court and recommended that the Assembly explore additional means to encourage timely and in full payment of contributions by States Parties, taking into account practices from other international organizations, a joint meeting of the New York Working Group facilitation on arrears and The Hague Working Group facilitation on the budget was held on 22 October 2024. The outcome of the consideration of the recommendation in 2024 is contained in the report of the budget facilitation on IER recommendations.

### **IV. Consultations and sharing of information**

13. As in previous years, information on the status of contributions to the Court was annexed to the reports of the two sessions of the Committee.<sup>9</sup> In addition, as initially mandated by the Assembly at its seventeenth session,<sup>10</sup> States Parties received a monthly financial report from the Court which included information on the status of contributions.

14. The Vice-President and Coordinator of the New York Working Group also kept the New York Working Group regularly updated on the status of contributions to the Court.

### **V. Conclusions and recommendations**

15. Bearing in mind the worrisome state of outstanding contributions and arrears, the status of contributions should be kept under close observation. The Assembly must continue to undertake focused efforts to ensure that no assessed contributions to the Court remain outstanding and to ensure that the requests for payment are acted upon by all States Parties. For this reason, it is recommended that the Assembly continues to have an annual facilitation on the matter of arrears.

16. The Vice-President and Coordinator of the New York Working Group concludes the inter-sessional work by recommending to the Assembly the inclusion in the omnibus resolution the paragraphs contained in the annex to this report.

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<sup>7</sup> ICC-ASP/23/25, para. 237.

<sup>8</sup> ICC-ASP/19/16.

<sup>9</sup> ICC-ASP/23/15 and ICC-ASP/23/25.

<sup>10</sup> ICC-ASP/17/Res.4, section N, para. 10.

## Annex

### Proposed text for inclusion in the omnibus resolution

1. The following paragraphs of the 2023 omnibus resolution (ICC-ASP/22/Res.3), located in the section on the programme budget, are to be maintained as follows:

158. *Takes note with concern* of the report of the Bureau on the arrears of States Parties;<sup>1</sup>

159. *Emphasizes* the importance of endowing the Court with the necessary financial resources, and *urges* all States Parties to the Rome Statute to transfer their assessed contributions in full and by the deadline for contributions or, in the event of pre-existing arrears, immediately, in accordance with article 115 of the Rome Statute, rule 105.1 of the Financial Regulations and Rules, and other relevant decisions taken by the Assembly;

2. Paragraphs 16 b) and c) of annex I of the 2023 omnibus resolution are to be replaced by the following:

With regard to the **programme budget**,

(b) *Decides* that the Bureau, through the President of the Assembly, the Coordinator of the working group and the facilitator, should continue to monitor the status of payments received throughout the financial year of the Court and as appropriate, continue to engage in dialogue with States Parties that have outstanding contributions or are in arrears, and, via the annual facilitation on the topic of arrears, report thereon to the Assembly at its twenty-fourth session;

(c) *Requests* the Secretariat to inform States Parties periodically of States that have recovered their voting rights following payment of their arrears;

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<sup>1</sup> ICC-ASP/23/16.