

Opening remarks by Mr. Richard Goldstone, Chair of the IER, on presentation of the IER Interim report on 30 June 2020

President Kwon, Vice-President Horslund, Vice-President Mlynár, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address you on behalf of the Group of Independent Experts appointed to carry out a review of the ICC and the Rome Statute system - the IER. In accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution of the ASP of 6 December 2019, the IER is submitting an Interim report on its work thus far. The report is submitted in both working languages of the Court. The report was sent to States Parties and other stakeholders yesterday afternoon.

This interim report sets out the working methods of the IER and refers to the consultations held and written submissions received by it. It also highlights the issues the Experts aim to address in their final report. The issues are referred to very briefly and are by no means comprehensive. I would mention, as an illustration, that gender issues, both with regard to the ICC internally, and with regard to the policies of the OTP, are cross-cutting issues being considered by all three clusters and in respect of which Cluster 1, on Governance, is taking the lead. They are included in the issues raised by Cluster 1 under human resources, gender balance and internal grievance procedures.

During the consultations phase (January – April), the IER held a total of 272 interviews and meetings with 243 current and former officials, staff and external defence and victims representatives. These took place alongside meetings with the Heads of Organs, the Staff Union Council, 9 States parties, 12 ASP bodies, 54 NGOs and 6 academics. Further details on the consultations held can be found in the appendix to the report.

The IER is grateful to all States Parties, civil society organisations, as well as current and former Court staff and officials for engaging with the Experts and sharing their input on ways to strengthen the Court and the Rome Statute system.

The final plenary meeting of the IER is scheduled for 1-3 September, and will take place virtually should travel restrictions remain in force. The Experts are committed to submit the final report by 30 September 2020.

Six members of the IER, representing all three clusters, are present today and would be happy to respond to any questions.

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