



**BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES**

**Ninth meeting**

New York, 1 October 2015

Agenda and Decisions

*The meeting was held in New York and was chaired by H.E. Mr. Sidiki Kaba, President of the Assembly*

**1. Fourteenth session of the Assembly of States Parties**

*a) Election of five members of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims*

The Bureau recalled that the nomination period for candidates for the five seats on the Board of Directors had closed on 11 August 2015 and that seven nominations had been received.

Considering that there are three nominations for the one seat allocated to the African group, the Bureau invited the three nominating States to initiate consultations with a view to agreeing on a consensus candidate for the region.

*b) Vacancy on the Committee on Budget and Finance*

The Bureau took note of the letter, dated 23 September 2015, from Mr. Juhani Lemmik (Estonia), wherein he announced his resignation from the Committee on Budget and Finance, effective 5 October 2015.

In order to fill this vacancy, the Bureau decided to include in the provisional agenda of the fourteenth session the item titled “Election to fill a vacancy on the Committee on Budget and Finance”.

The Bureau recalled that nominations to this seat were open to candidates from the Eastern European Group, and decided that the nomination period would run from 6 October to 5 November 2015. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to inform States Parties of the vacancy and of the opening of the nomination period.

*c) Seating arrangements*

In accordance with Assembly decision ICC-ASP/1/Decision.4, the President of the Assembly drew lots to determine which State Party would occupy the first desk on the Assembly floor to the right of the President. Latvia was selected.

*d) Programme of work for the fourteenth session*

The Bureau approved the provisional programme of work on the understanding that it would be subject to modification depending on the progress on different items during the session of the Assembly.

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to disseminate the provisional programme of work.

*e) General debate*

Pursuant to the practice initiated in 2011, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to indicate, when disseminating the agenda for the fourteenth session of the Assembly, the possibility for States to participate in the general debate by making written submissions, which would be posted on the website of the Assembly. The Bureau also requested the Secretariat to invite States in a position to do so to submit written statements only.

*f) Time limits*

The Bureau requested the President to inform States that a general debate would be held on Wednesday 18 November 2015, in the afternoon session and on Thursday 19 November in the morning. Depending on the number of speakers, a lunch-time or evening session may also be required.

The Bureau also requested the Secretariat to inform States of the opening of the list of speakers on 6 October 2015 (Central European Time), and that on the basis of rule 50 and of previous decisions of the Assembly regarding the time limit for statements in the debate, that the Assembly request speakers to observe a time limit of five minutes.

*g) Participation of observers and non-governmental organizations*

The Bureau, on the basis of previous Assembly decisions, recommended that the Assembly allocate 45 minutes for the participation of observers in the general debate, pursuant to rule 92 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

The Bureau also recommended that 45 minutes be allocated to non-governmental organizations for the delivery of statements at the end of the general debate.

*h) Credentials Committee*

The Bureau requested regional groups to consult and indicate, before the beginning of November 2015, whether the nine members of the Credential Committee that had been established pursuant to rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly for the thirteenth session, would be willing to serve on the Credentials Committee at the fourteenth session.<sup>1</sup>

*i) Side events*

In order to facilitate proper planning by the Secretariat, the Bureau requested States, observers and non-governmental organizations wishing tentatively to hold side-events during the fourteenth session to so indicate to the Secretariat by 15 October 2015, with a view to the preparation of a draft advance Journal for dissemination in the week of 19 October.

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<sup>1</sup> The Credentials Committee members at the thirteenth session were: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Estonia, Liechtenstein, Mali, Paraguay and Timor-Leste.

*j) Trust Fund for the participation of least developed countries and other developing States*

The Bureau noted that most of the contributions received in the first semester of 2015 had been allocated to the resumed thirteenth session of the Assembly held in June. The Bureau thus decided to call upon States in a position to do so to contribute to the Trust Fund.

The President also requested the members of the Bureau to work within their respective regions to encourage contributions to the Trust Fund.

**2. Other matters**

*a) Advisory Committee on Nominations*

The Bureau recalled the decision of the President to extend to 4 October 2015 the deadline for nomination for the nine posts of the Advisory Committee on Nominations.

The Bureau also recalled its decision of 29 June 2015 to constitute a working group to consider the nominations to the Committee. In this connection, the Bureau appointed Hungary as the representative of the Eastern European group in the working group.

The President encouraged the other regional groups to conclude their consultations and transmit their nomination to the Secretariat in order to constitute the working group.

*b) Study Group on Governance, cluster II co-focal point*

Upon recommendation by The Hague Working Group, the Bureau appointed Mr. Reinhard Hassenpflug (Germany) to replace Mr. Klaus Keller (Germany) as co-focal point for cluster II of the Study Group on Governance.

*c) Omnibus resolution- facilitator*

Upon the recommendation of the New York Working Group, the Bureau appointed Ms. Damaris Carnal (Switzerland) to replace Ms. Ana Cristina Rodríguez (Guatemala) as facilitator for the omnibus resolution.

*d) Work progress of the Working Group on Amendments*

The Bureau took note of the oral briefing by Ambassador May-Elin Stener (Norway), Chairperson of the Working Group on Amendments (WGA), who informed the Bureau that the WGA had met regularly throughout 2015. She had extended a standing invitation to all proponents of amendments to the Rome Statute to make use of the meetings to make expert presentations on their respective proposals. She also informed the Bureau of the agreement reached at the Working Group to recommend to the Assembly the deletion of article 124 of the Rome Statute.

*e) Request by Kenya*

The Bureau took note of the note verbale 299/15, dated 4 September 2015, from the Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Assembly, and of the note verbale ICC-ASP/NY/045, dated 10 September 2015, from the President of the Assembly addressed to the Permanent Mission of Kenya.

*f) Developments at the Court and at the United Nations*

The President of the Assembly brought to the attention of the Bureau the recent developments at the Court, especially the arrest and surrender by Niger to the Court of Mr. Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi, allegedly responsible of war crimes, including the destruction of cultural property, committed in the territory of Mali.

The Head of the New York Liaison Office also informed the Bureau that the presentation of the report of the International Criminal Court to the United Nations General Assembly (A/70/350<sup>2</sup>)<sup>3</sup> was scheduled for 5 and 6 November 2015.

*g) Activities of the President*

The President informed the Bureau of his missions to Nairobi, Kenya, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 11 to 14 August 2015, and to Conakry, Guinea, on 3 and 4 September 2015, where he met the President of the Republic of Kenya, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and the President of the Republic of Guinea, respectively, as well as other high-level authorities.

The President also informed the Bureau of his activities in New York from 26 September to 1 October 2015 in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, which included bilateral meetings at the ministerial level with States Parties and non- States Parties to promote the universality of the Rome Statute, the adoption of national implementing legislation that would reinforce the principle of complementarity and cooperation with the Court, and enhancing dialogue between Africa and the Court.

Furthermore, the President had participated in the 30 September 2015 high-level event organized by France and Mexico on the restraint of the use of the veto in the United Nations Security Council, as well as in a meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Network of the International Criminal Court.

*h) Next meeting of the Bureau*

The next meeting of the Bureau, open to all States Parties, would take place in The Hague on 2 October 2015.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/267/65/PDF/N1526765.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>3</sup> The report will be submitted pursuant to article 6 of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court and paragraph 28 of General Assembly resolution 69/279.