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Concept Note

Retreat : Promoting dialogue between the African States Parties to the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court

12 June 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The International Criminal Court (“ICC” or “the Court”) will convene a Retreat with African States Parties to the Rome Statute and the Office of Legal Counsel of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa on Wednesday 12th June 2019. The purpose of the Retreat is to promote candid dialogue and in-depth discussions on topics of mutual interest relating to the mandate and activities of the ICC and the fight against impunity for the gravest crimes under international law.

This Retreat is in part continuation of a series of meetings previously held in Addis Ababa between 2011 and 2017. These events initially took the form of seminars organised jointly by the ICC and the African Union (AU) Commission at the premises of the African Union. In recent years, an annual retreat was organised gathering officials of the ICC and Ambassadors and Legal Advisors from the Permanent Missions of African States Parties to the Rome Statute, as well as representatives of the AU Commission, with a view to strengthening relations between the Court and its African partners and addressing challenges within the context of this relationship. The Retreat is being organised by the ICC with the financial support of the European Commission and the *Organisation Internationale de La Francophonie*.

The general themes for the 2019 Retreat will include i) the legal framework of the Rome Statute and the Court’s mandate, including issues regarding cooperation and complementarity, ii) the role of the African Union in the fight against impunity in the region, and iii) victims participation and reparations, and the role of the Trust Fund for Victims. The discussions will provide an opportunity for participants to share experiences, and to explore further avenues of engagement and concrete action on topics of common interest.

Participants will include the President of the International Criminal Court, Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji, the Legal Counsel of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, representatives of the ICC’s Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry and of intergovernmental organisations, as well as ambassadors and legal advisors from the 33 African States Parties to the Rome Statute: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Republic of the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

The languages of the Seminar will be English and French, with simultaneous interpretation.