



**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**
**International
Criminal
Court**

Le Greffe
The Registry

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Registrar of the International Criminal Court

Remarks to the 25th Diplomatic Briefing

[check against delivery]

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Madam President, Madam Prosecutor, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to join the President and the Prosecutor in welcoming you to the Court and to the diplomatic briefing. Our special thanks go to the delegations that have come from Brussels to be with us today.

I firstly want to congratulate President Fernandez for her recent election and very much look forward to working with her. I have great trust in her vision for the Court and I am sure that, together with the Prosecutor, we can take the ICC to a more efficient and effective stage in its operations.

I will focus my remarks on five issues: progress on the *ReVision* Project, balanced geographical and gender representation at the Court, performance indicators, the 2015 budget as well as cooperation.

ReVision Project

The *ReVision* Project was launched, following authorisation by the ASP, a year and a half ago to reorganise the Registry in order to make it function more effectively and efficiently. Since then the project team has been reviewing the internal structure and working methods of the Registry's units. Alongside the administrative and judicial pillars, a new pillar is being established for external affairs and field operations. The *ReVision* team will be finishing all their reports on the staffing requirements of the Registry by next week. I will then make a decision on the new structure of the Registry's sections. At this point I would like to thank the *ReVision* team for the many hours of hard work that they have been putting in.

A number of sections have already come through this process of decision making of the new structure, in particular, the Victims and Witnesses Unit, Human Resources Section, and Legal Advisory Services Section. We have targeted those organisational units first because we were confronted with major challenges in those three areas. A couple of sections, relating to the defence and victims functions, are currently put aside in terms of structural decisions. As you may know, we are currently discussing how to make the Registry's support to both the defence and victims more efficient and effective. These discussions also involve the judges as they may lead to an amendment of existing Regulations of the Court. We had earlier this week a very productive Expert Conference here at the Court with Counsel, independent experts and civil society representatives. We are currently working on a report that reflects the constructive discussions. A general feeling at the conference was that we need to move away from the status quo in order to streamline and improve our work. We will be involving the Advisory Committee on Legal Texts and the plenary of judges in the months ahead.

Having a new structure does not mean that we have reached the end point in improving the functioning of the Registry. There are many aspects, including more effective communication that will require attention. There is a need for a cultural change and organisational development in the Registry also in the future. However, it is positive that we will very soon have the structural elements in place as this will bring more certainty and clarity to staff members.

Geographical representation and gender balance

We have a new Presidency that consists of three female judges and obviously the judges do a much better job in terms of gender balance than the Court as a whole. There is a lot of work to be done in this regard. As a result of the *ReVision* Project, some positions will be abolished while new ones will be created. The new structure will lead to new opportunities for obtaining a better geographical and gender balance at the Court.

It is interesting to see that the figures regarding geographical representation rather accurately reflect the number of applications the Court receives from those regions. Currently, the WEOG and African regions are overrepresented at the Court, while GRULAC, Eastern Europe and especially Asia are underrepresented. We must also remember that there are variations within these groups. I therefore extend a strong appeal to those States that are under-represented to promote the ICC actively back home and encourage candidates from their countries to apply. I am of course more than happy to provide more information concerning the exact figures.

Since I became the Registrar, I have been in regular contact with States about qualified candidates that they bring to my attention. I very much welcome these communications and believe that they are useful. At the same time we must carefully draw the line between coming up with suggestions and influencing the outcomes of the recruitment process. We must respect the rigorous recruitment system in place that focuses on the qualifications of candidates while also taking into account geographical distribution and gender balance. The Court has strict requirements for the composition of its recruitment panels and they are taken very seriously to ensure the integrity of our internal processes. We have also recently reconstituted the Selection Review Board which is comprised of staff members who double check that the recruitment panels have fulfilled their task appropriately.

Performance Indicators

I would like to echo the words of the President with regard to the development of Court-wide performance indicators. We are committed to developing indicators that will help us gauge whether we are doing our work in a transparent and effective manner. They will also bring clarity for States Parties to evaluate the performance of the Court and I hope this will

reinforce our mutual trust. The performance indicators will also help us further streamline the reporting obligations and governance relationship between the Court and States Parties.

2015 Budget

As for the 2015 budget, the ASP approved appropriations of approximately 130.7 million euros. Last year two Contingency Fund notifications were requested for additional resources in relation to judicial developments in the *Blé Goudé* and *Art. 70 CAR* cases. At the beginning of this year we were confronted with the arrest and surrender of Dominic Ongwen. The prosecutorial and Registry activities in relation to this case will lead to a new Contingency Fund notification. With regard to last year's budget, I am pleased to announce that we in the Registry have achieved 3.2% in savings from the approved 2014 Registry budget.

Cooperation

Finally, with respect to cooperation, I would like to once again reiterate the importance of protecting the witnesses who appear before the Court. Unfortunately we continue to have grave concerns over the security of our witnesses. We have been in contact with a number of States and indeed I am very happy with the constructive responses we have received. However, concrete action remains to be achieved in a number of cases. We strongly appeal to States to engage with us on this crucial issue.

Many thanks for your attention and I am of course also open to answer any questions.