



As delivered

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Remarks to the 23rd Diplomatic Briefing

The Hague

29 May 2013



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Allocution à la 23^{ème} séance d'information à l'intention du corps diplomatique

La Haye

29 mai 2013

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to address you in order to convey some of the most recent developments concerning the Assembly.

Twelfth session of the Assembly

The twelfth session of the Assembly shall be held at the World Forum Convention Center in The Hague from 20 to 28 November 2013, including Saturday, 23 November. The Secretariat has conveyed notes verbales to States regarding credentials, elections of CBF members and the election to fill a judicial vacancy, possible use by least developed countries and other developing States of the Trust Fund to facilitate participation at the session, as well as requests for States to provide information on steps undertaken in relation the Plan of Action for achieving the universality of the Rome Statute, as well as on complementarity. These notes would be posted on the website of the Court in the course of this week and would thus be readily available to capitals as well.

As regards elections at the twelfth session, the agenda would include the - Election of new President of the Assembly for the triennium 2014-2017. The Vice-President of the Assembly, Ambassador Ken Kanda, who is the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations in New York, is consulting with delegations on identifying the person who could be elected as new President. This election, one year ahead of assuming the office, is foreseen in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and is intended to allow the incoming President to begin to familiarize him/herself with the work of the Assembly and its subsidiary bodies. A new Bureau would also have be elected for the same triennium, with the two Vice-Presidents of that new Bureau most probably continuing the practice of assuming the role of coordinators of the New York and Hague working groups of the Bureau.

There will also be the election of six members of the Committee on Budget and Finance. Nomination period opened on 2 May 2013 and ends on 13 August.

The Assembly would also proceed with an election to fill a judicial vacancy, which arose earlier this year in light of the resignation of a judge. The note verbale from the Secretariat on the election indicates that in accordance to the norms regulating the nomination and election, the person to be elected would come from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. The nomination period would run from 28 August to 8 October 2013.

In connection with this election, you may wish to note that the Advisory Committee on Nominations of Judges, a body established by the Assembly in 2011 and composed of nine members elected by the Assembly in 2012, held its first meeting on 19 April here in The Hague. The report of the ACN¹, which has now been translated and will be posted on the website of the Court this week, refers to the key decisions made by the ACN, including the adoption of provisional rules of procedure and working methods, as well as deciding on having another meeting on 18 October in The Hague to consider the nominations received by then. For future elections, the dates of the

¹ ICC-ASP/12/23.

nomination period may need to be moved back to earlier in the respective year, so that the ACN report on the candidates may be available well in advance of the date of the respective election.

As regards participation by delegates at the Assembly in November, least developed countries and other developing States may wish to make use of the Trust Fund established to facilitate their participation. Depending on the availability of resources, the Trust Fund would provide for the plane ticket and accommodation for one representative per State. The deadline is 4 October.

As regards the Bureau's working groups, the New York Working Group has started consultations on looking at how to improve the content of the omnibus resolution, including its relationship with stand-alone resolutions of the Assembly. Consultations are also starting today on possible modifications to improve the procedure for nominating and electing judges. Working Group on Amendments will hold a meeting next week.

The Hague Working Group and its Study Group on Governance has held numerous meetings this year on issues such as cooperation, the independent oversight mechanism, legal aid, victims and reparations, expediting the judicial process, as well as on the budgetary process.

In order to improve the coordination and preparation for the Assembly session in November, the Coordinator of the Hague Working Group, Amb. Markus Borlin, would travel to New York for a visit from 3 to 6 June, in the company of several Hague based facilitators and focal points to liaise with the New York based delegations on topics of mutual interest. Furthermore, the review of the working methods of the two working groups will also be the subject of consideration, with a view to streamlining the work undertaken by delegations and its Secretariat, as well as facilitating the work of the Court.

In that process, the Secretariat would welcome suggestions on how to improve the communications with States Parties and observer States, including exploring new digital means of making documentation and communications more readily accessible, as well as perhaps reducing the cost of mailing hardcopies of communications. In this connection, the Secretariat notes that States Parties may avail themselves of the ASP Extranet where documentation not available on the Internet webpage of the Court may be accessed. Current practice includes posting of official documentation of the Assembly on the Internet.

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