

**Cour
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**International
Criminal
Court**

Renan Villacis

Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly of State Parties

Remarks to the 22nd Diplomatic Briefing

The Hague

19 September 2012

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Allocution à la 22^{ème} séance d'information à l'intention du corps diplomatique

La Haye

19 septembre 2012

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.

Eleventh session of the Assembly

The eleventh session of the Assembly shall be held at the World Forum Convention Center in The Hague from 14 to 22 November 2012 and would include working on Saturday, 17 November.

The Bureau has approved a provisional work programme yesterday in New York, which will be emailed to States shortly; it may have to be updated in advance of the session in light of the need to reallocate time to specific topics.

As we are commemorating the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute, a Steering Committee, with the host State and the Embassy of Switzerland taking the lead, is organizing two commemorative events which would take place in The Hague the evening of 13 November at the Atrium of the City Hall, as well as solemn commemoration at the Ridderzaal from 10:00 to 12:30 on 14 November.

The Assembly session per se would thus only start at 1500 on Wednesday 14 November. The first plenary meeting that afternoon would be devoted to the annual statements, followed by the election of the deputy Prosecutor, the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims and the Advisory Committee on Nominations.

The general debate would take place on Thursday, 15 November. The Bureau decided in May that the general debate would be thematic: "Tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute: the challenges ahead". The speakers list for the general debate will open on 15 October; the Bureau has requested that speakers observe a time limit of five minutes. Requests should be submitted via email to the Secretariat with an indication of the name and position of the speaker, as ministerial level representatives will be accorded a preferential slot. If need be, the general debate would include the lunch break and possibly also entail a night session. Furthermore, in order to expedite the proceedings of the Assembly, the Bureau called upon States to consider making written submissions, which would be posted on the website of the Court.

The work programme foresees devoting two plenary meetings to the topics of cooperation and complementarity, scheduled to take place on Friday, 16 and Monday, 19 November, respectively.

States, the Court and others interested in holding side-events during the Assembly are requested to convey their interest therein to the Secretariat by 19 October, specifying the tentative date and time for the side event. An advance version of the Journal containing the official programme of work and the side-events foreseen will be disseminated electronically after that date.

There is still an opportunity for least developed countries and other developing States to make use of the Trust Fund established to facilitate their participation at the sessions of the Assembly. 18 States have so far submitted their applications whereby the Trust Fund would provide for the plane ticket and accommodation for one representative per State. The deadline is 28 September. Further information may be found on the Court's website.

Arrears

The Secretariat has sent reminders to the 10 States Parties in arrears, which would not be able to vote in the Bureau nor in the Assembly unless the requisite minimum payments are made by 14 November.

Credentials and registration

On 23 April States Parties were requested to convey their credentials before 13 November 2012 to the Secretariat of the Assembly. The Secretariat also kindly requests States that the registration form for the eleventh session be submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible, preferably in October, so as to expedite the issuance of badges for each participant in order to access the premises.

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