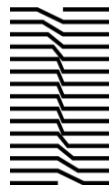




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## CONCEPT NOTE

### High-Level Regional Cooperation Seminar

“Opportunities for Cooperation and Exchange of Experience at 20 Years of the Rome Statute”

International Criminal Court  
*Tbilisi, Georgia, 24-25 October 2018*

#### BACKGROUND

Established in 2002, the International Criminal Court (“ICC” or “the Court”) is the first and only permanent institution dedicated to bringing those accountable for the most serious crimes under international law to justice. Since its establishment, the Court has accrued growing success and recognition on the global scene as a mainstay of international criminal justice. Considering that the cooperation of States is a vital pillar in the Court’s operations, from the protection of witnesses to the arrest of suspects, the Court has collaboratively organized a series of regional high-level seminars designed to promote discussion between the ICC and key State interlocutors on enhancing cooperation in the Rome Statute framework. In 2018, the ICC commemorates the 20-year anniversary of the Rome Statute. To date, the ICC has organized, in close cooperation with each respective government, 12 high-level regional seminars, including in Nuremberg, Germany (March & June 2013); Buenos Aires, Argentina (20-21 May 2014); Accra, Ghana (3-4 July 2014); Cotonou, Benin (3-4 November 2014); San José, Costa Rica (9-10 July 2015); Gaborone, Botswana (29-30 October 2015); Bucharest, Romania (21-22 March 2016); Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (10-11 January 2017); Seoul, Republic of Korea (4-5 April 2017); Niamey, Niger (24-26 October 2017); and Quito, Ecuador (7-8 June 2018).

#### HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR IN GEORGIA

The High-Level Regional Cooperation Seminar in Georgia has been designed to promote and enhance cooperative relationships between the ICC and countries from Eastern Europe and Western Asia. The Seminar is being organised by the ICC, with the support of the Government of Georgia and with the financial support of the European Commission.

The Seminar will bring together high level representatives and experts from States and the ICC, as well as relevant international and regional governmental and non-governmental organisations for an interactive exchange of views, the aim of which is threefold. Firstly, it aims to develop an understanding of the mutual benefits of joining the ICC and working on closer cooperation between the ICC and States. Secondly, to have a fruitful exchange of experiences and knowledge between the ICC and States, and among States themselves, in order to facilitate professional connections and networking amongst prominent experts, towards possible cooperation in national capacity building and sharing of regional capabilities with respect to various areas of cooperation. Thirdly, the seminar will allow for an exchange of experiences on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rome Statute in countries from Eastern Europe and Western Asia in the fight against impunity.

Thus, the seminar is intended to increase awareness about the Court and its activities generally, as well as to cover a number of important issues, including and the universality of the Rome Statute system; the principle of complementarity; rights of victims and of the defence; capacity building of national judicial systems; national implementation of the Rome Statute; and processes for cooperation with the ICC, *inter alia*.

The Seminar will be held in English.

*The International Criminal Court and the Government of Georgia would like to express its gratitude to the European Commission for its generous financial support for the workshop*



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## PARTICIPANTS

Participants consisted of one Ministerial level representative (Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Ministry of Justice) and one senior official in charge of operational issues related to cooperation with the ICC, or international judicial assistance in criminal matters, representing the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs or another relevant national authority from the following 16 States: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine. In total, approximately 70 participants from the region took part in the Seminar, alongside ICC Principals and staff, as well as experts from regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations.