



**Address by Mr. Didier Preira,  
Head of the Victims and Defense Division**

**ICC Seminar with Ugandan Judicial Authorities: Remarks on  
Behalf of the Registrar**

**Seminar: Mandate of the International Criminal Court  
Kampala, 26 September 2005**

On behalf of the Registrar, Mr Bruno Cathala, Registrar of the International Criminal Court, who has asked me to convey to you his sincere regrets for his unavoidable absence today and whom I have the honour of representing, I would like to express our gratitude to the authorities who are with us today, for their support in this initiative.

Honourable Lady Justice Laeticia Mukasa-Kikonyogo, we are much obliged to you for gracing us with your presence at the opening ceremony of this seminar.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's seminar provides an opportunity for the International Criminal Court and the Ugandan judicial community, as represented by you, to meet. Indeed this seminar is a fundamental part of the system established by the Rome Statute; that of complementarity between national systems and the Court.

The Pre-Trial Chamber's decision of 13 October 2005 to make public the arrest warrants for five LRA leaders marks a turning point in judicial process.

Our initiative is eminently judicial, aiming to create a forum for legal debate amongst law practitioners, and finds its part in the cooperation between the ICC and the Ugandan judicial authorities.

This seminar is in keeping with the initiatives of the Registry to inform and coach Ugandans involved in the work of the Court, in particular the Bar, civil society, and the Ugandan media.

For the Registry, which is a neutral Organ, this seminar will be an opportunity to work together with all of you, to get to know each other, to familiarize ourselves with the mechanisms of our different judicial systems – the Ugandan one and the ICC one, and to learn about the difficulties you might face and the challenges forward.

It is of utmost importance that, together, we reduce the distance between the Court in The Hague and your good selves who are here in the midst of the realities.

You may have noticed that our approach, through our field office in Kampala, is to ensure a permanent presence on the field, to enable us to work together with you in the framework of a mutual learning process to improve the efficiency of the work of the ICC.

The topics of this seminar (jurisdiction and procedure before the Court, procedure for arrest and transfer, rights of participants in proceedings, the offices of public counsel, the implementing legislation, etcetera) were chosen in line with the Court's wish to broaden understanding of the mechanisms of the Rome Statute and to optimise the contributions of those involved in the ICC's quest for justice.

Honourable Lady Justice Laetitia Mukasa-Kikonyogo,  
Distinguished guests,

We hope this seminar will not only meet your expectations but generate new expectations.

On behalf of my colleagues present with us today and on behalf of the Registry of the ICC as a whole, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this seminar.

I thank you for your kind attention.