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Diplomatic Briefing

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Statement by the Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties, Mr. Renan Villacis

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to be with you in order to convey some of the more important developments regarding States and the Court since our last diplomatic briefing on 7 April.

The Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties

At its eighth meeting, held on 5 May 2009, the Bureau decided that the election to fill the two judicial vacancies would be held during the eighth session of the Assembly of States Parties and that the nomination period would run from 5 August to 16 September 2009.

Committee on Budget and Finance

At its twelfth session, held from 20 to 24 April 2009, the Committee on Budget and Finance elected Mr. Santiago Wins (Uruguay) as Chairperson, Mr. Ugo Sessi (Italy) as Vice-Chairperson and Mr. Masud Husain (Canada) as Rapporteur.

In addition, the Committee decided to hold its thirteenth session in The Hague from 24 August to 1 September 2009.

The Hague Working Group of the Bureau

The Hague Working Group has held three meetings since the last Diplomatic Briefing. The Hague Working Group will continue the discussions on the issues such as: establishment of an independent oversight mechanism, legal aid (defence and victims), family visits and cooperation. Another meeting on family visits (victims) is scheduled for tomorrow.

The New York Working Group of the Bureau

New York Working Group has held two informal consultations on Review Conference, organized by the joint-facilitators on this issue, Ms. Angela Nworgu (Nigeria) and Mr. Marcelo Marcelo Böhlke (Brazil). The informal consultations were held on 11 March 2009 and 14 April 2009. The next meeting of the Working Group on this issue will take place in late May/early June.

The first seminar of the seminar series entitled “Process of Global Cooperation against Impunity – Towards Universality and Full Implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court” was held at United Nations Headquarters, on 19 May 2009. Participants in the seminar included the President of the Assembly, as well as its two Vice-Presidents, the President of the Court, the United Nations Legal Counsel,

representatives of academia and the NGOs. The seminar was intended to be a cross-regional event and States Parties were encouraged to participate and to support the event as co-sponsors.

Inter-sessional meeting on the crime of aggression

An inter-sessional meeting on the crime of aggression will be held from 8 to 10 June 2009, at the Princeton Club in New York. The most recent report on the topic is found as an annex of the *Official Records of the first and second resumptions of the seventh session of the Assembly* (ICC-ASP/8/20/Add.1); information on the inter-sessional meeting may be found on the Court's website under the section Assembly of States Parties.
