

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Tenth Diplomatic Briefing of the International Criminal Court

Brussels, 26 June 2007

*Information Package
(As of 19 June 2007)*

*Summary of activities since the last Diplomatic Briefing
26 March 2007, The Hague*

On 13 June, the Appeals Chamber dismissed the defence appeal of Pre-Trial Chamber I's decision on the confirmation of charges of war crimes against Mr. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo in relation to the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Pre-Trial Chamber also rejected separate applications for leave to appeal by both the defence and the prosecution of the confirmation of charges decision. Appeals proceedings have thus concluded and the Court's first trial is expected to commence later this year. Both Pre-Trial Chamber I and the Appeals Chamber have addressed a number of important procedural and substantive questions in relation to the case, including issues of assignment of new defence counsel and the appointment of duty counsel. Proceedings have also continued on issues of victims' participation.

In the situation in Northern Uganda, the arrest warrants issued by the Court for five senior members of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), including its leader Joseph Kony, are outstanding. One of the five members is presumed to have been killed, though the other four warrants are still to be executed. Victim participation in proceedings before the Court continues to be an important issue before Pre-Trial Chamber II in relation to the situation in Uganda.

At the end of April Pre-Trial Chamber I decided that the case against Mr. Ahmad Muhammad Harun (Ahmad Harun) and Mr. Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman (Ali Kushayb) falls within the jurisdiction of the Court and is admissible. It issued warrants of arrest for Mr. Harun and Mr. Kushayb in connection with alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in relation to the situation in Darfur, Sudan.

On 22 May 2007 the Office of the Prosecutor announced its decision to open investigations in the situation of the Central African Republic following the Prosecutor's review of information received from a range of sources. The Prosecutor will now proceed to conduct independent investigations, gather evidence, and prosecute the individuals who are alleged to be most responsible.

The judicial activities of the Court in the various situations underscore the importance of cooperation and State support to the progress of the Court's judicial activities, and particularly in the area of execution of arrest warrants. The Court has continued to make requests to States and to its other partners for cooperation in connection with arrest efforts. In the situation in Darfur, the Court issued requests for arrest and surrender addressed to all States Parties, all United Nations Security Council members that are not States Parties, as well as to Sudan, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Libya.

The Court conducts its operations in situations of ongoing conflict where crimes continue to be committed. Given the complexity of the environments in which the Court is active, cooperation and coordination between the Court and States are vital to the Court's activities at several levels and at various stages of proceedings. In keeping with this dialogue with States, the Court submitted a consolidated report on cooperation to the Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties and has begun discussions with the Hague Working Group on the topic of cooperation.

Presidency

- Issued decision transferring entire record of proceedings in the case of *The Prosecutor v Thomas Lubanga Dyilo* from Pre-Trial Chamber I to Trial Chamber I.
- President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands H.E. Maxime Verhagen signed the Headquarters Agreement between International Criminal Court and Kingdom of the Netherlands on 7 June 2007.
- President's external relations activities included series of meetings in Ghana and in Croatia, as well as participation in conference organised by the University of Trento in Italy on the relationship between the Court and national jurisdictions.
- Met with representatives of States, international organisations, and non-governmental organisations at the Court.
- Convened meetings of the Coordination Council to discuss Court-wide strategic issues, including preparation of the 2008 budget.

Chambers

Issued decisions at the Pre-Trial and Appeals level in the following situations:

Democratic Republic of the Congo

- 3 April 2007 – Appeals Chamber granted extension of time for defence to file response to certain directions of Appeals Chamber. Extension of time also granted for defence to supplement submissions and for prosecution to respond. Registrar directed to appoint duty counsel to submit documents if they had not been submitted within extended time period due to non-appointment of defence counsel.
- 5 April 2007 – Pre-Trial Chamber I suspended pre-trial proceedings in relation to requests for leave to appeal confirmation decision until otherwise decided.
- 19 April 2007 – Pre-Trial Chamber I ordered Registrar to appoint duty counsel for Mr. Lubanga Dyilo, limiting duty counsel's mandate to responding to prosecution request pertaining to leave to appeal confirmation decision.
- 27 April 2007 – Appeals Chamber dismissed requests made by Registrar pertaining to designation of defence counsel.
- 2 May 2007 - Presidency decided transmission of record of Mr. Lubanga Dyilo's case to Trial Chamber I was to remain suspended pending assignment of counsel and requested Registrar take all appropriate measures to facilitate appointment of counsel for Mr. Lubanga Dyilo.
- 4 May 2007 – Pre-Trial Chamber I ordered Registrar to submit observations on signature of Mr. Lubanga Dyilo appended to his application for additional means and on its authenticity.
- 11 May 2007 - Appeals Chamber dismissed a confidential *ex parte* request of Mr. Lubanga Dyilo to extend time limit to appoint duty counsel, file response to certain directions of Appeals Chamber and supplement defence submissions.
- 11 May 2007 - Appeals Chamber granted duty counsel for Mr. Lubanga Dyilo extension of time to file response to certain directions of Appeals Chamber and to supplement defence submissions.
- 16 May 2007 – Pre-Trial Chamber I granted duty counsel for Mr. Lubanga Dyilo extension of time to file response to prosecution application for leave to appeal.
- 23 May 2007 – Pre-Trial Chamber I allowed prosecution and Office of Public Counsel for Defence to submit observations on number of victim applications and possible granting of victim status.

- 24 May 2007 – Pre-Trial Chamber I decided not to grant leave to defence or prosecution to appeal decision on confirmation of charges.
- 5 June 2007 – Pre-Trial Chamber I decided it lacked competence to rule on number of requests, as Pre-Trial Chamber was no longer seized of any matter in the case.
- 5 June 2007 –Presidency decided to transmit full record of proceedings before Pre-Trial Chamber I to Trial Chamber I.
- 6 June 2007 – Trial Chamber I requested Pre-Trial Chamber I review its ruling on detention of Mr. Lubanga Dyilo, required every 120 days under the Statute, as Trial Chamber I considered it would not have sufficient time to familiarise itself with the record in order to review Mr. Lubanga Dyilo’s detention in a fair and effective manner.
- 11 June 2007 - Pre-Trial Chamber I decided as second review of the decision on application for interim release that Mr. Lubanga Dyilo shall remain in detention.
- 13 June 2007 – Appeals Chamber dismissed defence appeal against Pre-Trial Chamber’s decision on confirmation of charges of 29 January 2007, brought on basis of article 82(1)(b),which provides for appeal of a “decision granting or denying release of the person being investigated or prosecuted”.
- 13 June 2007 – Appeals Chamber dismissed joint application of victims for authorisation of their filing of response to defence submission on appealability of confirmation hearing decision brought on basis of article 82(1)(b).

Uganda

- 4 April 2007 – Pre-Trial Chamber II dismissed prosecution application requesting unredacted versions of applications for victims’ participation to be provided to Office of the Prosecutor. Chamber also dismissed requests by Office of Public Counsel for Victims to be heard and/or to file observations in response to Prosecutor’s applications and on protective measures already ordered by Chamber, and/or to reply to any submission on issues related to protection of applicants.
- 17 April 2007 – Pre-Trial Chamber II dismissed admissibility of observations on applications for participation by victims made by Office of Public Counsel for Victims.

Darfur, Sudan

- 27 April 2007 – Pre-Trial Chamber I decided case against Mr. Harun and Mr. Kushayb falls within jurisdiction of Court and is admissible. Decided there are reasonable grounds to believe Mr. Harun and Mr. Kushayb committed crimes within jurisdiction of the Court, namely crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur. Chamber considered there were reasonable grounds to believe Mr. Harun and Mr. Kushayb would not voluntarily present themselves before the Court and issued warrants for their arrest. Chamber also ordered Registry to:
 - prepare two requests for cooperation seeking arrest and surrender of Mr. Harun and Mr. Kushayb and containing information and documents required by article 91 of the Statute; and
 - transmit such requests to competent Sudanese authorities, all States Parties, all United Nations Security Council members that are not States Parties, and Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Libya.
- 23 May 2007 – Pre-Trial Chamber I authorised the Prosecution and Office of Public Counsel for the Defence to file observations on applications from victims for participation in proceedings.

See the web site of the Court, <http://www.icc-cpi.int/>, for decisions, orders, and more information on hearings, including a forthcoming schedule of hearings.

Investigative and Prosecutorial Policies

- In accordance with the Rome Statute, the Office of the Prosecutor acts independently; the OTP's independence is crucial for the successful execution of its mandate.
- In selecting situations, once the requirements of temporal and subject-matter jurisdiction are met, the OTP is guided by the standard of *gravity*. In the view of the Office, factors relevant to assessing gravity include: the scale of the crimes, the nature of the crimes, the manner of commission of the crimes, and the impact of the crimes.
- The OTP has adopted a policy of focusing its efforts on the *most serious* crimes and on those who bear the *greatest responsibility* for those crimes.
- Determining which individuals bear the greatest responsibility is done according to, and is dependent on, the evidence that emerges in the course of an investigation.
- The Prosecutor aims whenever possible to present expeditious and focused cases while aiming to represent the range of criminality. In principle, incidents will be selected to provide a sample that is reflective of the gravest incidents and the main types of victimisation.

Links to the Prosecutorial Strategies and the 3 Year Report:

http://www.icc-cpi.int/library/organs/otp/OTP_Prosecutorial-Strategy-20060914_English.pdf

http://www.icc-cpi.int/library/organs/otp/OTP_3-year-report-20060914_English.pdf

Uganda Investigation

- The situation in Northern Uganda was referred to the Court by the Government of Uganda in December 2003. An investigation was initiated in July 2004. On 14 October 2005, five arrest warrants were unsealed by Pre-Trial Chamber II charging Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, Raska Lukwiya, Dominic Ongwen, and Okot Odiambo with war crimes and crimes against humanity; Raska Lukwiya was reportedly killed in August 2006 in a clash with the UPDF.
- While the execution of the arrest warrants is pending, and the four individuals sought are at large, the Office of the Prosecutor has to dedicate efforts, in liaison with the Registry, to the protection of witnesses.
- The OTP is also pursuing continued preparation of evidence to ensure its readiness for a confirmation hearing.
- Under the Rome Statute, execution of the arrest warrants is the responsibility of the relevant territorial State. The OTP works with national and international actors to foster support for the execution of the arrest warrants.
- In the framework of the Court's wide outreach activities towards local communities, the OTP participated in two outreach missions prepared by the Registry and with the assistance of partner organisations.

Darfur Investigation

- The situation in Darfur was referred to the Court by the UN Security Council in March 2005; the OTP decided to open an investigation in June 2005.
- The OTP submitted an application on 27 February to Pre-Trial Chamber I for summonses to appear for Ahmad Harun, former Minister of State for the Interior of Sudan, and Ali Kushayb, a Militia/Janjaweed leader, on 51 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, allegedly committed in the years 2002-2003.
- On 27 April Pre-Trial Chamber I issued warrants of arrest for Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb.
- Before and after the filing, the OTP dedicated extensive efforts to secure the support and cooperation of relevant States and organisations; the Prosecutor briefed countries of the region, the African Union and the Arab League, including meetings with the Foreign Minister of Egypt and the Secretary General of the Arab League.
- In accordance with the Judges' decision, the OTP has assisted the Registry in the process of notification of States named in the Pre-Trial Chamber decision and has organised the circulation of warrants of arrest through Interpol.
- The OTP continued to develop an outreach strategy for Darfur in collaboration with the Registry and participated in training for Sudanese and Arab journalists in Egypt, Uganda and Abu Dhabi.
- On 7 June 2007 the Prosecutor reported to the Security Council on the status of the Darfur Situation in accordance with Resolution 1593.
- The OTP also continued its investigation into the situation in Darfur in order to be ready for pre-trial hearings, monitored present crimes by all parties to the conflict, including attacks against UN, AU and humanitarian personnel and undertook steps to secure/protect witnesses for Darfur case, in coordination with Registry.

Democratic Republic of the Congo Investigation

- The OTP continued preparation for the trial of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo and participated in Court proceedings as part of the Thomas Lubanga Dyilo case, including on victims' participation, and made filings and provided answers in relation to pending appeals.
- Continued to investigate crimes allegedly committed by another Ituri armed group with a view to completing a second set of requests for arrest warrants in the course of this year and continued the process of selecting a third case to investigate in the DRC situation.
- The OTP continued monitoring the situation and collecting information on movement and activities of armed groups on the territory of the DRC.
- The OTP participated in one outreach mission prepared by the Registry and with the assistance of partner organisations in Ituri and in the capital Kinshasa.
- The OTP continued working to galvanise support for the Court in the DRC and for the arrest and surrender strategies in coordination with the Registry.

Central African Republic Investigation

- The Prosecutor announced on 22 May the opening of an investigation in the Central African Republic (CAR) in accordance with article 53 of the Rome Statute.
- CAR is a State Party to the ICC. The CAR government ratified the Rome Statute on 3 October 2001. The ICC has jurisdiction in CAR since the entry into force of the Rome Statute on 1st July 2002.

- The CAR Government referred the situation to the OTP on 22 December 2004. The CAR authorities provided information in relation to the allegations of crimes and to proceedings held by the national judiciary. The OTP has also received significant communications from NGOs and international organisations regarding alleged crimes.
- Prior to opening the investigation, the OTP conducted a thorough analysis of available information and determined that the jurisdiction, admissibility and interests of justice requirements of the Rome Statute were satisfied.

Analysis

- The OTP continues to conduct preliminary analysis of various situations including Côte d'Ivoire.
- The OTP has renewed its request for an assessment mission in Côte d'Ivoire but the Ivorian authorities have yet to create suitable conditions for this to occur.
- The OTP received and analysed 90 article 15 communications between 10 March and 12 June.

Cooperation

- In relation to international and regional organisations, it is recalled that the Court has concluded an agreement with the European Union and concluded agreements and arrangements with entities of the United Nations system, including a relationship agreement. A relationship agreement with the African Union is currently being negotiated.
- Recently, on 10 April 2007, the OTP signed a Letter of Understanding on Cooperation with Eurojust.

Other Activities of the OTP

- The OTP organised and conducted an NGO-OTP Roundtable on 28-29 March.
- The Office briefed African Mediators on 24 April 2007.

Registry

Contributions as of 1 June 2007

- Contributions received: 74.65% of the total 2007 budget (€88,871,800)
- Contributions received: 94.58% of the total 2006 budget (€80,417,200)
- Contributions received: 96.31% of the total 2005 budget (€66,891,200)
- Contributions received: 99.97% of the total 2004 budget (€53 071 846)
- Budget 2002-2003: all contributions received

Human Resources as at 1 June 2007

Number of staff on established posts: 465 (female 47.1 %, male 52.9 %)

Staff subject to geographical representation:

- 16.67% from the African Group of States (target: 13.09%)
- 6.57% from the Asian Group of States (target: 7.69%)
- 7.07% from the Group of Eastern Europe (target: 7.32%)
- 12.12% from the Latin American and Caribbean Group of States (target: 14.15%)
- 57.58 % from the Western European and others Group of States (target: 57.74%)

Applications received as at 1 June 2007: 6866

Division of Court Services

- Revision of the Standing Operating Procedures applicable at the ICC Detention Centre is underway.
- Support activities related to the applicable detention regime of Mr. Charles Taylor, Special Court of Sierra Leone detainee including implementation of SCSL Registrar decisions.
- Five-fold increase in the number of individuals admitted into the ICC protection programme (since summer 2006).
- Second Terminology Bulletin on Post Titles and Names of Organisational Entities at the ICC about to be published in 7 languages (Acholi, Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Swahili).

Division of Victims and Counsel

- List of counsel eligible for appointment to accused and victims contains 205 counsel to date.
- Provided assistance to the defence team of Mr. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo and to Mr. Lubanga Dyilo in particular with respect to the appointment of a new defence counsel (still pending).
- Provided assistance to the (two) duty counsel appointed to undertake specific tasks before the Pre-Trial and Appeals Chambers in the case of the *Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*.
- Facilitated the appointment of duty counsel to assist in safeguarding the rights of persons being interviewed by the OTP pursuant to article 55 of the Rome Statute.
- Delivered decision denying additional resources to one victim participating in the Mr. Lubanga Dyilo case.
- Delivered decisions on a request for additional resources for Mr. Lubanga Dyilo.

- Filed observations before the Presidency and the Chamber respectively on the question of appointment of counsel, duty counsel, and the resources available to the defence in the case of *Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*.
- 5th Seminar of Counsel took place from 28 to 29 March. The event was attended by close to 200 persons, comprising, *inter alia*, members of the legal profession, experts, representatives of NGOs, international associations and *ad hoc* tribunals.
- Presented a comprehensive project of adjustment of the Court's legal aid system to the CBF.
- Received and processed 86 applications for victims' participation in the proceedings in relation to the situations (since April 2007).

Public Information and Documentation Section

- 14th and 15th ICC Newsletters were published and disseminated.
- During the reporting period 309,539 visitors accessed the ICC website (24.6% increase compared to the same period of last year) and 1,109 visitors attended briefings at the Court (14.6% increase).

Immediate Office of the Registrar

- Field missions of the Registrar to the refugee camps in Chad (1 – 5 May 2007).
- Mission of the Registrar to New York (12- 15 June 2007).
- **Future activities:** Participation in expert meeting on permanent premises (21- 22 June 2007).

Office of Public Counsel for Defence

- The OPCD has been appointed to submit observations from the perspective of the defence in relation to five applications to participate as victims, which were filed in the Sudan situation, and 76 applications filed in the DRC situation.
- The Principal Counsel has presented observations concerning equality of arms and the rights of the defence at counsel seminars in The Hague, Sousse (Tunisia), and Tokyo (Japan), and in June 2007 will be participating in an outreach seminar organised by the International Criminal Bar in Kinshasa.

Division of Common Administrative Services

Field Operations:

- Increasing activities in the field have stretched the capacities and suitability of the Court's original field offices. As a consequence, it was decided to move field offices in Kinshasa, Kampala and Abeche to new locations to ensure sufficient capacity for logistic and human resources purposes. The relocation has already taken place in Kinshasa and Kampala and is in process in Abeche. In the case of Kinshasa, the office relocation was also strongly influenced by security requirements, after repeated incidents. The new field offices will also better support the outreach and cooperation activities of the Court by offering a more appropriate public face.
- Field Operations Section is coordinating operational aspects related to the set-up of a new field office in the Central African Republic.
- Discussions are ongoing with UN authorities to ensure efficient use of UN infrastructure in the field, such as organising ICT satellite connection through UN infrastructure, or setting up MOSS compliant equipment on the field.

ICT

- SAP: Detailed financial information is becoming available through advanced reports implementation. Significant progress has been made and is planned to yield results in the near future: real-time data will become available to all Court managers, contributing to increased efficiency in the management of resources.

Budget

- Budget 2008 preparation: Coordination of all organs and sections' input for the Court's proposed 2008 budget. The proposed budget incorporates several new elements as required during the last Assembly of States Parties and Committee on Budget and Finance.

Interim Premises

- Construction of additional computer centre adjacent to the Court's headquarters (ARC building) in order to respond to additional operational requirements, such as access to the Court's electronic systems from the field for all parties related to an investigation or a trial. The construction of the new computer centre at the ARC is taking place in parallel with the construction of alternative interim premises by the host State.

Special Court for Sierra Leone

- Elaboration of operational Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Court and the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Update on Outreach Activities

Democratic Republic of Congo

Focusing outreach activities in Ituri to target new groups and explain and address specific issues related to a trial.

- Workshop conducted with "chefs des 12 quartiers, chefs d'avenue, chefs de localité, notables" with the participation of 486 people.
- Workshop for 100 students, teachers, lawyers and social workers were organised by the Court in Bunia.
- Court's officials conducted a training session for 33 journalists in Bunia.
- Scripts of dramatic sketches on the principle of complementarity, on jurisdiction of the Court and on crimes under the jurisdiction of the Court were prepared and the performances were videotaped. Broadcasts of these performances in the two TV stations are taking place.
- Participation of Court officials in five seminars organised by partners for key leaders representing diverse sectors of the society including the legal community.
- The following materials were distributed during the reporting period: 273 information kits, 222 sets of basic legal texts, 120 samples of ICC newsletters.
- Participation of Court's officials in 29 media outlets reaching, in total, an estimated audience of over 45 million people.

Uganda

Outreach activities were conducted to counter misconceptions and to address concerns. In preparation of mass outreach in internal displaced camps, outreach activities were strategically conducted to benefit from contacts who relay the Court's messages and who could reach Teso and Langui communities at the grassroots levels.

- Seven outreach workshops were conducted with the participation of 370 IDP camp leaders.
- Using existing networks and through IDP camp leaders, an estimated population of 121 738 was reached.
- Two training sessions for 35 journalists each were organised by partners with Court's officials participating. ICC materials were distributed.
- The following materials were distributed during the reporting period: 1773 information kits, 2136 sets of basic legal texts, 900 samples of the ICC newsletters.
- No press interviews were published with Court's officials but two letters to the editor correcting mistakes published by the media were sent and reproduced.

Darfur

Outreach activities were conducted to raise awareness and sensitise Sudanese in refugee camps in Chad. Other outreach efforts were made to target key leaders representing different sectors of the society, including journalists.

- Special efforts were made to publicise judicial proceedings and provide background information to promote a better understanding of the Court's activities.
- A mission to explore outreach opportunities in four of the twelve existing refugee camps in Chad was conducted. Interviews were also given by the Court's officials to a news service present in the camps
- The Registrar, accompanied by the heads of the Division of Counsel and Victims and Public Information and Documentation Section, visited the camps of Bredjing, Farchana and Treguine
- A Court official briefed twenty-five Sudanese journalists from Khartoum and Darfur who participated in a two-day training session on ICC issues organised by partners outside Sudan. As a result, feature stories on how the ICC was established and how the Court operates have been published in Sudanese newspapers.
- During the reported period 50 information kits, including the Rome Statute in Arabic, were distributed.
- Court's officials were interviewed by five different Sudanese media.

Sixth session of the Assembly

- At its sixth meeting, on 17 April 2007, the Bureau approved the provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Assembly of States Parties,¹ scheduled to be held in New York, from 30 November to 14 December 2007. The agenda includes, *inter alia*, the following items:
 - the election to fill judicial vacancies;
 - the election of the members of the Committee on Budget and Finance;
 - the election of the President of the Assembly for the seventh to ninth sessions; and
 - the Review Conference.
- On 8 May, the Court announced that Judge Claude Jorda (France) had submitted his resignation, which will take effect on 12 August 2007. The Bureau agreed to hold the election for this third vacancy during the sixth session and to apply the same nomination period that was fixed for the first and second judicial vacancies, i.e. 1 June to 24 August 2007.
- The Secretariat sent note ICC-ASP/6/S/10, dated 1 June, informing States of the procedure for nominating a candidate and the applicable minimum voting requirements. This note replaces note ICC-ASP/6/S/09, dated 16 April 2007. As at 11 June, the Secretariat has received one nomination, which has been posted on the website of the Court (www.icc-cpi.int), under “Assembly of States Parties/Elections”.

The Hague Working Group

- The Coordinator of The Hague Working Group, Ambassador Sandra Fuentes (Mexico) has assumed her new post as Ambassador of Mexico to Belgium, Luxemburg and the European Union. Nonetheless, she will continue as Coordinator of the Group and travel to The Hague regularly.
- On 23 May 2007, an informal briefing on the activities of The Hague Working Group was held in Brussels. The objective was to provide interested embassies based in Brussels with information on issues under consideration by the group.
- Immediately after the end of the tenth Diplomatic Briefing organised by the Court, on Tuesday, 26 June 2007, from 16.30 – 18.00 hours, The Hague Working Group will hold a second informal briefing for embassies based in Brussels.
- The Hague Working Group has held a total of nine meetings this year to discuss the issues of geographical representation and gender balance in the recruitment of staff, cooperation, the Strategic Plan and the budget.
- An additional four meetings are scheduled to discuss, *inter alia*, the issue of permanent premises.

¹ Document ICC-ASP/6/1.

New York Working Group

- The New York Working Group held its first, second and third meetings on 4 April, 2 May and 7 June 2007, respectively. At its third meeting, the Working Group heard a presentation by the Facilitator of The Hague Working Group on the issue of geographical representation and gender balance in the recruitment of staff.

The Working Group is also holding informal consultations on the issues of cooperation, arrears, the Review Conference and the Plan of Action for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute.

Committee on Budget and Finance

- The Committee on Budget and Finance held its eighth session from 23 to 27 April 2007 in The Hague, and discussed, *inter alia*, the programme performance of the 2006 budget, the legal aid scheme, human resources issues, as well as permanent premises and the pension scheme for judges.
- The report of the Committee on Budget and Finance on the work of its eighth session, as well as other Assembly documents that have been issued, were sent to States by mail in early June. These documents are available on the website of the Court (www.icc-cpi.int), under “Assembly of States Parties”.
- As regards the election of the members of the Committee on Budget and Finance, as at 11 June, the Secretariat has received three nominations, which are available on the website of the Court.

Inter-sessional meeting on the crime of aggression

- The fourth inter-sessional meeting of the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression took place from 11-14 June 2007 at the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, United States of America. The meeting focused on defining the crime of aggression and the conditions for the exercise of jurisdiction by the Court over the crime.