

June 2005

ICC NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

The Rome Statute confers a particular status on victims: at the ICC, they will be in a position to participate in trials and request reparations. This status is a true innovation in the history of international criminal justice, and contrasts with the procedures of the *ad hoc* tribunals, before which victims may only appear as witnesses. The Court has therefore held in-depth discussions on the participation of victims in order to equip itself as best possible to fully recognise victims, whilst concurrently ensuring that trials run smoothly.

However, the Court alone will not be able to accomplish this mission, which is crucial to justice. For the provisions of the Rome Statute to have an impact, the potential victims must be identified and informed of their rights, and those rights must be realised. Women and children, the main and most vulnerable victims, must be a priority for all of us. It is consequently important for information concerning the Court to be relayed effectively. Training must also be provided to people who will bring the Court closer to victims. It is therefore important for States and NGOs to work hand in hand with the Court to these ends.

We have dedicated a number of articles to the participation of victims.

Bruno Cathala, Registrar

THE PROSECUTOR OPENS INVESTIGATION IN DARFUR

The Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Luis Moreno-Ocampo, has decided to open an investigation into the situation in Darfur, Sudan. Following the referral from the United Nations Security Council on 31 March 2005, the Prosecutor received the document archive of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur. In addition, the Office of the Prosecutor requested information from a variety of sources, leading to the collection of thousands of documents. The Office also interviewed over 50 independent experts. After thorough analysis the Prosecutor concluded that the statutory requirements for initiating an investigation were satisfied. For the press release, please go to: <http://www.icc-cpi.int/press/pressreleases/107.html>

ICC UGANDA FIELD OFFICE UP AND RUNNING

The ICC opened its first field office, in Kampala, Uganda in early 2005. The office is now staffed with members of the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) and the Registry. Its primary duties are to facilitate communication between the Court and those most affected by its work in Uganda, to coordinate with the authorities in the country and to provide ICC staff members coming from The Hague with logistical assistance, with their work in the field. This assistance includes providing office space, basic administrative support, vehicles and equipment. An office will open in due course in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

In April 2005, the Registrar of the ICC and a delegation from the registry made a short visit to Kampala, where they met with officials of the Ugandan government, members of the press and NGOs. Mr Cathala was the first principal of the Court to visit the field office.

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PRESIDENT KIRSCH VISITS THE USA

Judge Philippe Kirsch, President of the ICC visited New York and Washington from 27 March to 1 April 2005.

In New York, President Kirsch delivered the annual Blaine Sloan Lecture in International Law at Pace University. He also spoke at the Council for Foreign Relations, where Professor Anne-Marie Slaughter, who moderated the event, described him as the "Gatherer-in-Chief" in recognition of his steadfast chairmanship of the Committee of the Whole during the Rome conference.

In addition, Judge Kirsch met with HRH Prince Zeid, the outgoing President of the ASP, and his successor, Ambassador Bruno Stagno Ugarte. He also met with Ambassador Kanu of Sierra Leone, who is the coordinator of the ASP's New York working group, and with various NGOs and Friends of the Court based in New York.

During his visit to Washington, President Kirsch delivered the third lecture in the Lecture Series of the Americas staged by the Organisation of American States (OAS). The lecture was broadcast live throughout the Americas. Whilst in Washington, President Kirsch met with Congressman Tom Lantos, co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, and addressed senior staffers of the International Relations and Judiciary Committees of the US House of Representatives. In both New York and Washington, President Kirsch gave interviews to representatives of radio, TV and print media.



President Kirsch with Congressman Tom Lantos

In Brief

French Minister of Foreign Affairs Visits the ICC

On Tuesday 19 April 2005, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Michel Barnier, visited the International Criminal Court, where he had individual meetings with the President of the ICC, Mr Philippe Kirsch; the Prosecutor, Mr Luis Moreno-Ocampo; and the Registrar, Mr Bruno Cathala.

The Foreign Minister confirmed that France would continue to support the work of the International Criminal Court, especially following United Nations Security Council Resolution 1593 referring the situation in Darfur to the Court. He also announced that France would donate 150,000 euros to the Trust Fund for Victims, as it had done in 2004.

Diplomatic briefing at the International Criminal Court

On Tuesday 1 March 2005, a diplomatic briefing was held at the seat of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. In line with the ICC's continued commitment to close dialogue with States Parties, Judge Philippe Kirsch, President of the ICC; Luis Moreno Ocampo, Prosecutor of the ICC; Bruno Cathala, Registrar of the ICC; and Medard Rwelamira, Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties, briefed diplomats based in The Netherlands and Belgium on the overall progress of the ICC's work and its plans for the future.

The presentations were followed by a question-and-answer session, with President Kirsch concluding the event with an invitation to those present to attend further diplomatic briefings scheduled for 2005.

EU council working group on public International Law meets in Brussels on 16-17 February 2005

On 16 and 17 February 2005, the EU Council Working Group on Public International Law (COJUR) held a meeting in Brussels entitled *International Public Law/International Court*.

The group discussed, among other issues, the negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding between Member States and the International Criminal Court, compensation for victims, the ICC in the context of reinforcing international humanitarian law and EU-ICC cooperation agreements. The participants also exchanged preliminary views on the preparations for the fourth session of the Assembly of States Parties. Bruno Cathala, Registrar of the ICC, and Ralph Martens, Director of Common Administrative Services, were invited to address the group on the first day of their meeting on the preparation of the 2006 ICC budget.

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COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE TO THE ICC: A COLLECTIVE CHALLENGE

The International Criminal Court is fully operational and on the verge of starting its first judicial proceedings. In response to referrals by Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Prosecutor of the ICC is conducting investigations into alleged crimes committed in these two States. Preliminary proceedings have begun at the pre-trial level, and full-scale proceedings could occur at any time now.

The cooperation of States is a fundamental principle of the Rome Statute of the ICC, which has been signed by 139 States and ratified to date by 99, and is critical to the international response, embodied in the ICC, to the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. The prospects for an effective international judicial institution like the ICC would be severely restricted without international cooperation.

Cooperation has been a key element for the work of the ICC from the outset. Since the ICC does not have at its disposal its own police force capable of executing its decisions or orders, it relies on States to carry out many functions. Part 9 of the Statute imposes an obligation upon States Parties to cooperate with the ICC. It cannot operate properly without the full support and commitment of States.

The ICC needs, first of all, the full support of the State on whose territory the crime was committed as well as the State of nationality of the perpetrator. These States, in particular, are well positioned to refer situations to the ICC and to provide assistance in relation to the investigation and prosecution of the alleged crime. This includes the forms of cooperation envisaged under article 93 of the Statute, such as the production of evidence, the questioning of persons, the taking of testimony, the execution of searches and seizures, the protection of witnesses

and victims, and the preservation of evidence. This does not minimise the significance of the cooperation of other States. Both States Parties and States that are not parties to the Statute may assist the ICC at any given moment in time, and in particular in situations, for instance, where they have custody over a person being investigated or prosecuted, or where they hold information relevant to the situation in question. Tasks such as the execution of a warrant of arrest, the surrender of persons, and the provision of evidence require a collective effort by all States, and not only the support of States directly affected by the situation referred to the ICC. The Statute expressly allows States that are not parties to the Statute to enter into ad hoc arrangements or agreements with the ICC in order to facilitate cooperation and assistance.

The ICC will require the support and cooperation of States at all stages of the proceedings. The ICC needs logistical support at the investigation stage. For example, States may support the work of the ICC by providing forensic teams and translators, as well as equipment that assists ICC personnel in carrying out investigations. Furthermore, States may facilitate investigations by concluding agreements which allow for the confidential sharing and treatment of sensitive information.

In addition, the ICC needs support from States in order to facilitate the initiation and conduct of judicial proceedings. The cooperation of States is necessary in order to locate persons and make arrests and to secure the surrender of persons to the ICC. Furthermore, the ICC needs cooperation and assistance in order to enable witnesses and victims to appear before it and to ensure their protection. States may in particular facilitate the work of the ICC by concluding agreements on relocation and the provision

of support for traumatised or threatened victims, witnesses and other persons who are at risk on account of testimony given by such witnesses.

States may further enhance the effectiveness of proceedings by passing legislation which enables domestic authorities to carry out requests and implement decisions of the ICC. More generally, such legislation is essential in order to facilitate the swift and effective implementation of requests for assistance and the smooth functioning of the ICC.

Following conviction, States may assist the ICC by declaring their willingness to enforce sentences of imprisonment. The ICC may enter into bilateral arrangements with States in order to establish a "framework for the acceptance of prisoners sentenced by the ICC". Such agreements will be negotiated under the authority of the Presidency of the ICC and thereafter concluded by the President of the ICC with the relevant States Parties.

The ICC needs not only the collective support of States, but also the cooperation and assistance of international organisations, such as the United Nations, Interpol, and regional organisations. It has already concluded a relationship agreement with the United Nations. This agreement provides a sound basis for cooperation between the ICC and the United Nations while recognising that the ICC is an independent, permanent judicial institution. The ICC is currently conducting additional negotiations in order to ensure political support, logistical assistance and information-sharing. The degree of cooperation and support provided to the ICC through this multilayered framework of international assistance will be crucial to the first operational steps taken by the ICC in practice, and to establishing a sound basis for its future proceedings.

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THE CASE MATRIX: INNOVATION THROUGH PRACTICE

One of the functions of the Legal Advisory Section (LAS) of the Office of the Prosecutor is litigation support. In ICC Newsletter No. 3, we briefly presented the various electronic legal services and tools which LAS has developed. The most innovative among them is perhaps the Case Matrix, a case management application with legal reference services.

As the co-coordinator of the OTP start-up team, Morten Bergsmo, Chief of LAS, researched existing case management software before developing the Case Matrix. He made several visits to the UK Serious Fraud Office, the Crown Prosecution Service (England and Wales), the UK Criminal Justice Information Technology Project, and to the Oberlandesgericht in Cologne (Germany), and also facilitated a study of case management applications used by other justice agencies dealing with serious fraud or other fact-complex cases. The experience of other international criminal courts with evidence and case management tools (such as proof charts and applications like CaseMap) was also studied before Bergsmo arrived at the concept and developed the Case Matrix. "Careful observation of the work processes leading to lengthy proceedings in the ICTY and other international criminal courts highlighted the problem of inadequate overview of information and potential evidence by investigation and prosecution teams" says Bergsmo. He continues "Prosecutors end up losing the overview because of the sheer volume of documents and number of potential witnesses. As a result, the factual scope of cases becomes too broad and the lists of exhibits and witnesses too long, thereby unnecessarily exposing the International criminal jurisdictions to outside criticism on the grounds of the length of proceedings. This basic lack of overview has indirectly weakened the credibility of the international criminal justice experiment".

The initial objective of the Case Matrix was to address the challenge of information overview. It provides a database where information and potential evidence can be organised in line with the legal structure of the relevant crimes and modes of liability. Incriminating and exonerating information is linked directly to the basic building blocks of crimes and modes of liability, namely

their elements or legal requirements. This ensures a detailed overview of all potential evidence in fact-complex cases in accordance with the logic of the law which must ultimately be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt. Any user with access to the Case Matrix files of a case can easily assess its degree of preparedness, completeness or strength.

The *Case Matrix* also has distinct legal reference functions. Firstly, every element of crime or legal requirement of mode of liability is hyperlinked to an electronic commentary. This 850-page commentary indicates all international legal sources relevant to the element or requirement in question, and quotes the main sources. The commentary was prepared on the basis of the text of a commentary written by a team of lawyers previously employed by the ICTY and which is about to be published. Their intellectual property rights are protected. Secondly, each detailed element of crime or legal requirement of mode of liability is linked to a list of means of proof by which it can be proven. These lists act as a guide to proving the law. There may be several dozen means of proof for one element of crime. Each means of proof is hyperlinked to a source document which provides legal authority for the type or category of fact being a means of proof, with the relevant quotation from the source. Additional functions are being added to the source document.

The ICC Office of the Prosecutor has entered into a technical development agreement with the University of Saarbrücken to strengthen the software platform on which the Case Matrix operates. The legal analysis work has already been completed, through extensive research and development conducted in LAS. In a few months' time, the application will be based on a strong open-source platform, which will allow both export of the application and its implementation in highly fact-complex cases by many simultaneous users. LAS is in contact with IT and law experts in various countries, seeking their ideas and advice on how the Case Matrix and the broader Legal Tools Project can best develop. Particular attention is being paid to user-friendliness. The Case Matrix has already been translated into Bahasa Indonesian and Arabic. It has been deployed by the Indonesian



Gilbert Bitti and Morten Bergsmo (LAS)

Prosecutor General's directorate for international crimes cases. The Norwegian Center for Human Rights/NORDEM has paid for its translation and for training to facilitate its introduction. Likewise, the International Human Rights Law Institute of DePaul University has financed the translation of the Case Matrix into Arabic and covered the expenses involved in including the software in the training of judges, investigating judges and prosecutors of the Iraq Special Tribunal. Bergsmo's activities related to introducing the Case Matrix into national and internationalised courts have been without cost to the ICC. In response to considerable interest in the Case Matrix from other courts, the ICC Office of the Prosecutor intends gradually to make it available to users worldwide, not just in the context of the ICC, but in any case, in a way which ensures careful logging of user needs and feedback with a view to continuously enhancing its quality.

Bergsmo notes that the costs involved in the research and development of the Case Matrix are minimal. This is important as one of the motives behind developing the Legal Tools Project, of which the Case Matrix is a part, is to reduce human resource costs by empowering every lawyer, investigator and analyst to find the answers to most of their legal questions through their desktop or laptop computer. Bergsmo stresses that "without the active assistance of LAS Law Clerks (interns) and short-term staff, it would not have been possible to develop the Legal Tools Project. This innovation by LAS is becoming universally useful thanks to their hard work".

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ICC REGISTRY HOLDS TRAINING SEMINARS IN THE DRC FOR MAGISTRATES OF THE JUSTICE AND DEFENCE MINISTRIES

Kinshasa (11 and 12 April), Kisangani (14 and 15 April), Lubumbashi (17 and 19 April)

A delegation from the divisions of Court Services and of Victims and Counsel of the Registry of the International Criminal Court organised a series of seminars for civil and military magistrates from the Ministries of Justice and Defence of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) between 11 and 19 April 2005. These seminars were held over two days in three main cities of the DRC, beginning in Kinshasa (10-12 April) followed by Kisangani (14-15 April) and Lubumbashi (17-19 April). The Registrar of the International Criminal Court, Mr Bruno Cathala, attended the opening session of the seminar in Kinshasa.

The seminars were designed to inform participants about the mandate and legal framework of the Court. They covered issues related to international criminal justice, the history of the International Criminal Court, the structure and organs of the Court, the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, as well as the principle of complementarity. In addition,

seminars also covered the rights of victims and the accused before the Court, detention, and procedures concerning judicial cooperation and international assistance.

Over 300 participants attended the three seminars at which Maître Ngele Deo Masuda, lawyer at the Supreme Court of Justice and former Minister of Justice of the DRC, spoke about substantive and procedural aspects of the criminal justice system in the country.

On Thursday 2 April, members of the delegation from the ICC Registry attended a one-day seminar organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs entitled "Mieux connaître la CPI, pour mieux coopérer" (*facilitating cooperation through a better knowledge of the ICC*).



ICC Seminar Kisangani

In Brief

On 12 April 2005, the Registrar, Mr Bruno Cathala; the Head of the Court Services Division, Mr Marc Dubuisson; and the Spokesman of the Court, Mr Ernest Sagaga met with senior Congolese television, radio and press journalists based in Kinshasa. The Public Information and Documentation Section (PIDS) also met with media representatives in Kisangani and Lubumbashi with the aim of developing strong working relationships with media organisations based in the DRC and providing the media with accurate information regarding the work of the Court and also to:

- Hear their opinions regarding our integrated strategy for outreach and public information and to hear how, from their own experience as journalists, they believe PIDS can best assist them.
- Inform them of the Court's visiting professional and internship programmes and encourage them to take part in these programmes.
- Assess interest in participating in future media development programmes on the work of the ICC.
- Discuss the principle of the ICC publishing articles about key messages of the Court in local newspapers and creating spots for local radio stations.
- Discuss initial thoughts on the media coming to The Hague to follow Court proceedings.
- Exchange contact details in order to add them to the PIDS mailing list for all public information products.

The delegation also met with numerous NGOs in the three cities in order to discuss issues of ongoing cooperation with the Court.

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VPRS – GENDER SENSITIVITY

A subject further emphasised during International Women's Day in March, gender sensitivity, is of high priority to the ICC. Among the most innovative aspects of the Rome Statute are the series of rights provided to victims. These rights are indispensable to the effective exercise of justice, as they provide a restorative balance to the retributive functions of the Court. Victims' rights before the Court will also help to ensure that particularly vulnerable groups, including women victims, are taken into account in the judicial process.

All of the organs of the ICC share a broad mandate with respect to victims. Under article 68 of the Rome Statute of the ICC, "The Court shall take appropriate measures to protect the safety, physical and psychological well-being, dignity and privacy of victims and witnesses. In so doing, the Court shall have regard to all relevant factors, including age, gender and health, and the nature of the crime, in particular, but not limited to, where the crime involves sexual or gender violence, or violence against children".

Beyond these protections and considerations, however, victims before the ICC can also have an additional role. Rather than serving just as witnesses to a prosecution or as the beneficiaries of a conviction, the ICC allows victims to address their views to the Court and request reparations. The ICC's Victims' Participation and Reparations Section ("VPRS"), which is part of the Registry, will

facilitate the participation of victims in Court proceedings as well as requests for reparations.

Nevertheless, these specific rights can never be realised if the underlying principles of article 68 are not fully integrated into the process which allows victims to participate and request reparations before the Court. The VPRS, in recognition of this fact, has undertaken to develop a methodology for implementing its mandate in a manner which takes into account, *inter alia*, the special needs of women victims. The Section realises that extra care must be taken with respect to the treatment of women victims, as victims of gender-based crimes often suffer disproportionately from fear, shame and stigma.

While it is evident that men and women should participate on an equal basis in the judicial process, this will not be the case without provisions specifically to assist women victims. As the application process for victims to participate and receive reparations from the Court is an individualised one, the realisation of the rights of different groups of victims will only take place where these groups are made aware of their rights and are placed in a position to make their applications in a secure and comfortable manner. Particularly vulnerable groups, including women victims, will be disproportionately underrepresented as participants before the Court if steps are not taken to ensure that they are aware of their rights

and granted full access to the Court's procedural regime.

Accordingly, the VPRS has been working to institute a gender perspective throughout the many facets of its mandate. The Section is also in the process of taking specific steps to ensure that this perspective is manifested in a tangible manner in the implementation of its mandate, particularly in the field.

In order to help ensure that women victims are able to benefit equally from the rights afforded them by the Court, the VPRS will reach out to international, national and local women's groups working in situations being analysed or investigated by the Prosecutor. These groups will act as intermediaries with female victim populations, helping to facilitate their participation and reparations rights under the Rome Statute by explaining to them their rights under the Rome Statute and assisting them in applying for participation and reparations in a sensitive and appropriate manner.

The VPRS will also attempt to incorporate gender sensitivity education into the training of organisations, agencies and institutions that will work directly with victim populations, so that the needs of women victims are addressed. Finally, the Court is in the process of developing a set of guidelines to be followed by all Court staff to ensure that those who deal directly with victims operate in a gender-sensitive manner.

In Brief

Registrar of the ICC presented with the International Bar Association's Rule of law award

On Saturday, 26 February 2005, at an awards ceremony held in Amsterdam, the Board of the International Bar Association (IBA) presented Mr Bruno Cathala, Registrar of the International Criminal Court, with the IBA's *Rule of Law Award*. This prestigious annual award was presented to Mr Cathala in acknowledgement of his dedication to the rule of law within the legal profession.

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TRUST FUND FOR VICTIMS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court provides an innovative reparation regime, in which reparation is seen as an essential part of the inalienable right to an effective remedy and as a relevant part of the process of justice. Envisaged as the key institution for the benefit of victims of crimes and their families, the Trust Fund for Victims was created to support the ICC in safeguarding their right to obtain reparation and to assist the ICC in the allocation of reparation awards.

A. Secretariat of the Trust Fund for Victims

The Third Assembly of States Parties (ASP) approved the establishment of a Secretariat of the Trust Fund for Victims to assist the Board of Directors in carrying out its tasks. The Secretariat was created to operate under the full authority of the Board of Directors. For the Secretariat to be operational, the ASP decided that the immediate recruitment of a fund-raiser was essential. It is expected that the Secretariat will be in place and promoting outreach and voluntary contributions worldwide in the next few months.

B. Draft Regulations of the Trust Fund for Victims

According to the Rome Statute, it is the responsibility of the ASP to determine the criteria governing the operation and daily management of the Trust Fund. As requested in September 2002 at the First ASP, the Board of Directors presented a report containing draft regulations at the Third ASP. Ms Simone Veil, Chair of the Board of Directors, recalled on that occasion the foremost importance of the adoption of the Regulations of the Trust Fund if the Trust Fund was to accomplish its mandate.

At the Third ASP, a Working Group on the Trust Fund for Victims, chaired by Ms Gaile Ann Ramoutar from Trinidad and Tobago, was created to consider the report of the Board of Directors, including the draft Regulations of the Trust Fund. After intensive work, the ASP adopted a Resolution proposed by the Working Group that the first two parts of the draft Regulations of the Trust Fund for Victims be applied provisionally and that the third part of the draft Regulations, regarding the activities and projects of the Trust Fund, be the subject of further work. This Resolution requested the Bureau of the ASP to further consider the draft Regulations through an appropriate mechanism, in consultation with the States Parties and the Board of Directors, and to determine the criteria for the daily management of the Trust Fund according to the provisions of the Rome Statute.

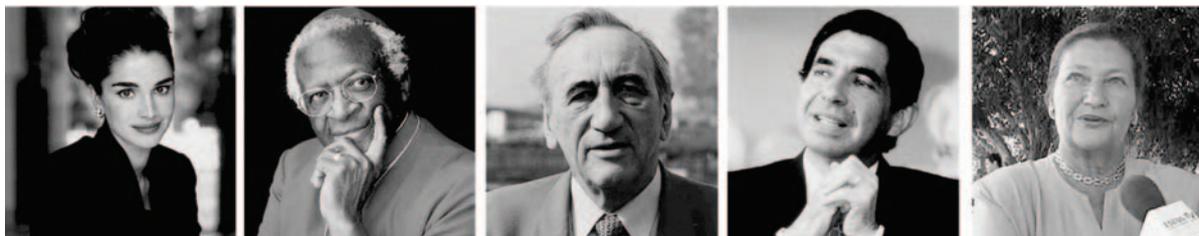
The draft Regulations of the Trust Fund will be the subject of further consideration at the Fourth ASP, taking place in November 2005.

Current Status of Contributions and Pledges

<i>Approximate amount pledged to date</i>	EUR	400,500.00
<i>Approximate amount received by the Court to date</i>	EUR	340,527.14

"It is a great honour for me to address you as a representative of the Trust Fund for Victims. This is an historic moment, a moment in which you, the States Parties, are in a position to endow the Fund that you created with the means to fulfil its important mandate, to ensure that the Fund does not remain an empty pledge, like so many other pledges made to victims, but becomes an institution that effectively serves victims' interests."

Extract from the speech by Ms Simone Veil, Chair, Board of Directors, Trust Fund for Victims. Third Session of the ASP, 6 September 2004



Board of Directors, Trust Fund for Victims

Trust Fund Liaison Officer Appointed

On 10 February, Tathiana Flores Acuna joined the ICC as the Trust Fund Liaison Officer. Her main duties include liaising between the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims and the ICC and assisting it by overseeing and coordinating all administrative and legal issues. She is also in charge of coordinating all types of meetings and activities of the Board of Directors as well as drafting and reviewing relevant documents, proposals and policies from a legal and operational perspective. Until the Secretariat of the Trust Fund is in place, she will assist in the administration of contributions made to the Trust Fund and take charge of building a network of experts, donors (including States Parties), individuals, international organisations and NGOs.

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UPDATE ON THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES



The Committee on Budget and Finance – Fourth Session

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Fourth Session of the Assembly

The Bureau of the Assembly decided that the fourth session would be held in The Hague from 28 November to 3 December 2005 and that a resumed session would take place in New York on 26 and 27 January. At the resumed session, the Assembly would proceed with the election of six judges and of six members of the Committee on Budget and Finance.

Committee on Budget and Finance

The Committee on Budget and Finance held its fourth session from 4 to 6 April 2005 in The Hague. The Committee addressed a number of issues including the permanent premises of the Court, a preliminary report on the 2004 budget, the revised assumptions of the Prosecutor for 2005, preparatory discussions for the 2006 budget, as well as considering reports on procurement issues, human resources, legal aid and the Court's Strategic Plan. The Chairperson of the Committee briefed local embassies on the outcome of the session on 7 April.

Bureau Working Groups

Pursuant to Assembly Resolution ICC-ASP/3/Res.8, on 1 December 2004, the Bureau of the Assembly established two working groups, to be based in The Hague and New York and coordinated by Ambassadors Gilberto Vergne Saboia (Brazil) and Allieu Ibrahim Kanu (Sierra Leone) respectively. The Working Group in New York has been mandated to consider the relationship with the United Nations (including the matter of an ICC liaison office at the United Nations), the draft Regulations of the Trust Fund for Victims, and the arrears of States Parties. For its part, the Working Group in The Hague will consider the permanent premises of the Court, host country issues (including the Headquarters Agreement where it relates to the Assembly), and the draft Code of Professional Conduct for Counsel.

The Hague Working Group has had two meetings, on 31 January and 28 April. It focused its initial discussions on the draft

Code of Professional Conduct for Counsel. In this connection, the Working Group established a Task Force composed of those States Parties that had submitted comments on the draft Code, as well as any other interested State. Representatives of the three organs of the Court have also attended these meetings. The Task Force meets once every 3 weeks; by 25 May it had already held five meetings.

Inter-sessional Meeting on the Crime of Aggression

The second inter-sessional meeting of the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression will take place from 13 to 15 June 2005 and will be hosted by the Liechtenstein Institute on Self Determination at the Woodrow Wilson School, University of Princeton. Participation at the meeting is by invitation only. The reservation form and all other relevant documents can be downloaded by invitees at <https://www.princeton.edu/~lisd/ISSmeetin g05>.

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Upcoming events:**8 June:
Diplomatic
briefing
(Brussels):**

A diplomatic briefing organised by the ICC will take place at the seat of the European Commission in Brussels on 8 June 2005. The President, Mr Philippe Kirsch; the Deputy Prosecutor, Mr Serge Brammertz; the Registrar, Mr Bruno Cathala; and the Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties, Mr Medard Rwelamira, will provide diplomatic representatives based in The Netherlands and Belgium with a general progress report on the work of the Court since the last session of the ASP.

**20 – 24 June:
NGO Meeting**

The next strategic meeting between Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the Court will take place at the seat of the Court in The Hague from 20 to 24 June 2005. The main objective of the meeting will be to discuss further ways in which to enhance the dialogue between the Court and the NGOs.

Latest Documents:**Pre-Trial Chamber I**

26.04.2005 - Decision on the Prosecutor's Request for Measures under Article 56

21.04.2005 - Decision to Hold Consultation under Rule 114

14.03.2005 - Decision on the Prosecutor's Application for Leave to Appeal

09.03.2005 - Decision on the Prosecutor's Position on Pre-Trial Chamber I's 17 February 2005 Decision to Convene a Status Conference

17.02.2005 - Decision to Convene a Status Conference on the Situation in the DRC

Pre-Trial Chamber III

04.02.2005 - Election of the Presiding Judge of Pre-Trial Chamber III

These documents can be found on the ICC website at:

www.icc-cpi.int/organs/chambers/chambers_decision.html.&1=er**99 States now Party to the ICC**

On 12 May 2005, the Dominican Republic deposited its instrument of ratification of the Statute of the ICC at the United Nations headquarters in New York, bringing the number of States Parties to the Agreement to 99.

Out of them 27 are [African States](#), 12 are [Asian States](#), 15 are from [Eastern Europe](#), 20 are from [Latin America and the Caribbean](#), and 25 are from [Western Europe and other States](#). 139 States are signatories of the agreement.

The ICC Celebrates International Women's Day

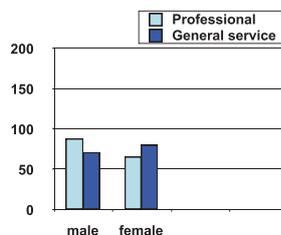
On Friday 11 March, all staff members of the International Criminal Court (ICC) were invited by the Women's Network of the ICC to attend a short presentation titled *Gender equality beyond 2005 – building a more secure future*, during which Vice-President Kuenyehia and the Registrar, Mr Bruno Cathala, officially marked the 30th anniversary of International Women's Day on Tuesday 8 March.

Mr Cathala reported that:

According to the latest statistics, 47 % of all staff at the ICC with a contract of over 1 year are women. Women hold 42 % of all professional positions. This percentage reflects the proportion of applications the Court receives from female candidates.

Nevertheless, the Court still has some way to go, and has to encourage women to apply for managerial posts given the insufficient number of applications from them in this area. The Court thrives to create working conditions that make it possible to achieve a work-life balance. All of this goes hand in hand with the principles which govern the functioning of this Court.

Finally he announced the decision taken by the Court on that day that part-time employment will be possible in our organisation.

ICC Latest Recruitment Figures

Of the 306 ICC Staff Members from 57 countries, 147 are male and 159 are female.

Not including:

- 22 on elected posts
- 97 on part-time posts

Your comments or suggestions regarding issue four of the newsletter should be addressed under the subject heading ICC Newsletter to: pio@icc-cpi.int or by fax to: +31 70 5158555

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