



Concept Note

Judicial Seminar:

Complementarity and Cooperation of Courts in an Interconnected Global Justice System

International Criminal Court

(18 January 2018; The Hague, The Netherlands)

INTRODUCTION

The International Criminal Court (“ICC”) will organize a judicial seminar titled “Complementarity and Cooperation of Courts in an Interconnected Global Justice System” at the seat of the Court in The Hague, Netherlands on 18 January 2018, followed by a ceremony marking the opening of the judicial year 2018.

The seminar intends to promote dialogue on issues of common interest among senior judges from the States Parties to the Rome Statute, facilitating networking and fostering a sense of community in support of the international criminal justice system.

Participants of the seminar will be judges from national, international and regional jurisdictions. The highest judicial office-holder (such as Chief Justice or President of the Court of Cassation or Supreme Court) from each State Party will be invited; participants will also include ICC judges as well as judges from relevant international and regional courts.

THEMES

The Seminar will look at the interconnectedness of international, regional and national courts as part of a global system, collectively aimed at ensuring the rule of law and, in particular, accountability and justice for the gravest crimes under international law.

The proceedings of the Seminar will be structured around two working sessions: one on complementarity and one on cooperation. The possible topics to be discussed under the two themes are elaborated below in a non-exhaustive manner.

This session on **complementarity** will address *inter alia* the following topics:

- Primacy of national jurisdictions enshrined in the Rome Statute and the complementary nature of the ICC as a court of last resort; ICC jurisprudence on admissibility (articles 17-19 of the Statute)
- Experiences of national courts in addressing Rome Statute crimes
- Role of regional courts
- Relationship/convergence of criminal courts and human rights courts
- How to strengthen global respect for the rule of law

This session on **cooperation** will address *inter alia* the following topics:

- Prospects of cooperation and exchange of expertise between courts
- Can cross-jurisdictional dialogue assist in addressing shared challenges of courts?
- Challenges faced by courts in relation to judicial assistance in criminal matters
- Challenges of efficiency, workload and resources
- Challenges of perception and legitimacy; relationship of justice and politics

FORMAT AND LANGUAGE

The format of the Seminar is designed to enable interactive discussions and maximise opportunities for a frank exchange of views. Each of the two working sessions will be commenced with brief introductory remarks by a discussant, followed by open discussion among the participants of the seminar.

The languages of the Seminar will be English, French and Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation.