

High Level Regional Conference

International Criminal Court and National Justice in the fight against impunity for Rome Statute crimes and other serious or related crimes: Issues, challenges and prospects for cooperation and complementarity

Dakar, Republic of Senegal, May 23, 24 and 25, 2022

Dakar Declaration

We,

- Ministers of Justice of ECOWAS member countries;
- Ministers of Justice of the Central African Republic and the Republic of Chad;
- Deputy Minister and Heads of delegations of ECOWAS member countries;
- Representatives of judicial institutions and various legal professions, of the academic bodies, and the civil society;

Gathered in Dakar from May 23 to 25, 2022 as part of the High-level Conference organized by the International Criminal Court in partnership with the Republic of Senegal and with the support of the European Union and the French Embassy in the Netherlands.

Aware of the continued efforts of the International Criminal Court, States and other partners to strengthen initiatives to reduce the impunity gap for crimes that shock the conscience of humanity,

Convinced that cooperation and judicial assistance remain essential for the effective prevention and the repression of those crimes at the national, regional and international levels,

Conscious of the continuous challenges which require at the same time the strengthening of national judicial systems through effective cooperation between various States and non-State actors and the International Criminal Court, through a spirit of a dynamic complementarity

Emphasizing the importance of political and diplomatic support in promoting the fundamental principles of international criminal justice in order to put an end to the impunity: for the perpetrators of the crimes of the Rome Statute and other serious or related crimes and thus contribute to the prevention of these crimes,

1. Welcoming the organisation of the Dakar regional conference dedicated to cooperation and complementarity in the fight against impunity for crimes under the Rome Statute and other serious or related crimes,
2. Reaffirm our support for the International Criminal Court and call for the Court to be provided with the necessary support for the fulfilment of its judicial mandate and to provide the Court with full cooperation,
3. Encourage efforts to strengthen national and regional judicial institutions in the fight against crimes under the Rome Statute and other serious or related crimes that threaten the stability of our States and the security and well-being of our populations,
4. Call for the continuation of efforts for a wider ratification of the Rome Statute and the integration of its standards into national legislations for an effective and efficient handling of these crimes,
5. Support all complementary efforts to sustainably guarantee the respect for international justice and its implementation,
6. Encourage initiatives to guarantee access to justice for victims of atrocity crimes as well as effective reparation,
7. To this end, call for the continuation and strengthening of efforts to support the work of the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court and all other national and regional reparation initiatives for the benefit of victims,
8. Reaffirm our commitment to continue the international cooperation and solidarity necessary for our common efforts to bring the perpetrators of atrocity crimes to justice in fair proceedings, and
9. Finally, express our gratitude to the Authorities of the Republic of Senegal for their hospitality and the facilities made available for the holding of the conference.

Dakar 25 May 2022