

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: English

No. ICC-01/12-01/18

Date: 16 March 2023

TRIAL CHAMBER X

Before:

Judge Antoine Kesia-Mbe Mindua, Presiding Judge

Judge Tomoko Akane

Judge Kimberly Prost

SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MALI

IN THE CASE OF

***THE PROSECUTOR v. AL HASSAN AG ABDOUL AZIZ AG MOHAMED AG
MAHMOUD***

Public

Order scheduling the closing statements

To be notified in accordance with Regulation 31 of the *Regulations of the Court* to:**The Office of the Prosecutor**

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Seydou Doumbia
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Legal Representatives of Applicants**Unrepresented Victims****Unrepresented Applicants for Participation/Reparations****The Office of Public Counsel for Victims****The Office of Public Counsel for the Defence****States Representatives***Amicus Curiae***REGISTRY**

Registrar

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Counsel Support Section

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Detention Section**Victims Participation and Reparations Section**

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TRIAL CHAMBER X of the International Criminal Court, in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Al Hassan Ag Abdoul Aziz Ag Mohamed Ag Mahmoud*, having regard to Article 64 of the Rome Statute (the ‘Statute’) and Rule 141(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence (the ‘Rules’), issues the following ‘Order scheduling the closing statements’.

1. On 29 August 2022, the Chamber issued its ‘Sixth decision on matters related to the conduct of proceedings: end of Defence case, potential rebuttal/rejoinder evidence, and closure of evidence’ (the ‘Sixth Directions’) in which it, *inter alia*, set deadlines concerning the submission of closing briefs.¹ In the same decision, the Chamber also decided that ‘the parties and participants’ closing statements will be scheduled in due course, but shall take place approximately within 2 weeks of notification of the [responses to the closing briefs]’.²
2. On 8 February 2023, the Chamber declared the submission of evidence in this case closed.³
3. On 15 February 2023, the Chamber rejected the Defence’s request for an extension of time to file its closing brief, while at the same time deciding that deadlines will be suspended during the spring judicial recess.⁴ Accordingly, the responses to the closing briefs are due on 2 May 2023.
4. Pursuant to Rule 141(2) of the Rules, the Chamber now decides to invite the parties and participants to make their closings statements and schedules the hearings from 23 to 25 May 2023. The Chamber informs the parties and participants that it may ask questions during these closing statements. To the extent possible, these questions will be provided to the parties in advance in writing.

¹ ICC-01/12-01/18-2308.

² Sixth Directions, ICC-01/12-01/18-2308, para. 4.

³ Declaration of the closure of the submission of evidence, ICC-01/12-01/18-2468.

⁴ Email from the Chamber at 15:16.

5. The Chamber also decides, in light of the charges in the present case and the respective roles of the parties and participants, that the order and the maximum time for the closing statements will be as follows: :
- The Office of the Prosecutor's closing statement (maximum 4 hours);
 - The LRVs' closing statement (maximum 1.5 hours);
 - The Defence's closing statement (maximum 4 hours);
 - Questions from the Chamber.
6. Finally, the Chamber recalls that, like opening statements, closing statements are essential for the public to have an overview of, and fully understand the parties' arguments.⁵ Therefore, the closing statements will, in principle, be presented in public session. The Chamber will only authorise private sessions for very discrete instances where the parties and participants will refer to confidential information to develop their arguments, in particular in order to respond to the Chamber's questions.

⁵ See Decision on the Prosecution's request for reconsideration regarding the presentation of opening statements, 9 June 2020, ICC-01/12-01/18-867, para. 10.

FOR THE FOREGOING REASONS, THE CHAMBER HEREBY

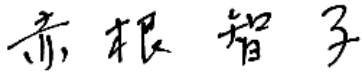
SCHEDULES the hearings for the closing statements from 23 to 25 May 2023.

Done in both English and French, the English version being authoritative.



Judge Antoine Kesia-Mbe Mindua

Presiding Judge



Judge Tomoko Akane



Judge Kimberly Prost

Dated this Thursday, 16 March 2023

At The Hague, The Netherlands