



Cour
Pénale
Internationale
International
Criminal
Court



República del Ecuador



CONCEPT NOTE

High-Level Regional Seminar

“The International Criminal Court and South America: Opportunities for cooperation and the exchange of experiences at 20 years of the Rome Statute”

Headquarters of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), Quito, Republic of Ecuador

7-8 June 2018

BACKGROUND

Since its establishment in 2002, the International Criminal Court (“ICC” or “the Court”) has accrued growing success and recognition on the global scene as a mainstay of international criminal justice. Considering that the cooperation of States is a vital pillar in the Court’s operations, from the protection of witnesses to the arrest of suspects, regional high-level seminars have been designed to promote discussion between the ICC and key State interlocutors on enhancing cooperation in the Rome Statute framework. To date, the ICC has organized, in close cooperation with each respective government, eleven high-level regional seminars, including in Nuremberg, Germany (March & June 2013); Buenos Aires, Argentina (20-21 May 2014); Accra, Ghana (3-4 July 2014); Cotonou, Benin (3-4 November 2014); San José, Costa Rica (9-10 July 2015); Gaborone, Botswana (29-30 October 2015); Bucharest, Romania (21-22 March 2016); Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (10-11 January 2017); Seoul, Republic of Korea (4-5 April 2017); and Niamey, Niger (24-26 October 2017).

HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR in ECUADOR

The High Level Regional Seminar in Ecuador has been designed to promote and enhance cooperative relationships between the ICC and the countries of South America. The Seminar is being organized by the ICC in partnership with the Republic of Ecuador, with financial support from the European Commission.

The seminar will bring together high level representatives and experts from States and the ICC, as well as relevant international and regional governmental and non-governmental organizations for an interactive exchange of views, the aim of which is threefold. Firstly, to develop an understanding of the mutual benefits of closer cooperation between the ICC and States Parties. Secondly, to have a fruitful exchange of experiences and knowledge between the ICC and States, and among States themselves, in order to facilitate professional connections and networking amongst prominent experts, towards possible cooperation in national capacity building and sharing of regional capabilities with respect to various areas of cooperation. Thirdly, the seminar will allow for an exchange of experience on the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute in a region – South America – that is unique in that all of its States are parties to the treaty.

Thus, the seminar is intended to increase awareness about the Court and its activities generally, as well as cover a number of important issues, including and the principle of complementarity; rights of victims and of the defence; capacity building of national judicial systems; national implementation of the Rome Statute; processes for cooperation with the ICC; bilateral cooperation agreements for witness protection, enforcement of sentences, interim release and release of persons; and cooperation between the ICC, specialized networks and States in financial investigations and freezing of assets, *inter alia*.

PARTICIPANTS

In total, approximately 60 participants (high-level national decision makers / experts) from the countries of South America are expected to take part in the Seminar, alongside ICC Principals and staff, and experts from regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations.