



**Cour  
Pénale  
Internationale**  

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**International  
Criminal  
Court**

Le Président  
The President

**Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji**  
**President of the International Criminal Court**

*Ceremony for the solemn undertaking of the Registrar*

*Check against delivery*

**17 April 2018**

**Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,**

- 1. I welcome all of you to the ceremony for the solemn undertaking – and commencement of tenure – of the new Registrar of the International Criminal Court.**
- 2. On 28 March 2018, Mr Peter Lewis was elected by the judges of the Court by an absolute majority, as the next Registrar of the ICC.**
- 3. Mr Lewis succeeds Mr Herman von Hebel, whose five-year term of office ended yesterday. The Presidency thanks him for his service with the Court.**
- 4. Mr Lewis also joins the Court to complete a change in leadership in the Presidency and the Registry. This change marks a shift of focus for the Court – a focus on the need to revitalise reflection on the ICC's value to humanity. I call upon all to join this reflection.**

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5. Pursuant to article 45 of the Rome Statute, before taking up his duties, the Registrar must make, in open court, a solemn undertaking to exercise his functions impartially and conscientiously.

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6. Today's ceremony is presided over by the President of the Court, under whose authority the Registrar shall exercise his functions. I am immensely honoured to play that role, with the support of the two Vice-Presidents and our fellow judges here on the Bench with us.

7. We are pleased to have also the attendance of the leadership of the Office of the Prosecutor; as well as that of counsel who respectively represent the Victims and the Defence. These presences today remind us, in more than a symbolic way, of the constituencies that the Registrar has the mandate to serve.

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8. Under the Rome Statute, the Registrar is the principal administrative officer of the Court, responsible for the non-judicial aspects of the administration and servicing of the

**Court. As such, the position of Registrar is a key position within our institution. The incumbent is also responsible for facilitating the fullest participation of the defence and the victims in the Court's legal processes.**

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- 9. Our new Registrar brings to the Court a wealth of leadership experience in the three areas falling under the Registrar's realm of responsibility, under the authority of the President. Those being: administration, Court services and external operations.**

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- 10. For nearly ten years, Mr Lewis served as Chief Executive of the Crown Prosecution Service in England and Wales. He previously worked in a number of capacities with the Prosecution Service, including as Director of Business Development, as Chief Crown Prosecutor, and as Crown Prosecutor.**

- 11. Mr Lewis also chaired the Criminal Justice Efficiency Board of his home country, engaging in a reform to improve the efficiency of the criminal justice system.**

12. The Presidency trusts that the Registry, in particular, and the Court as a whole, by virtue of all the stakeholders, will greatly benefit from Mr Lewis's wide expertise.
  
13. Not least in gratitude are we, of course, for his remarkable gift of oral advocacy. He was superbly persuasive during his interview. We shall need that gift to plead our case to States Parties: to loosen their purse strings, just a little, at budget time.

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**Excellences, Mesdames et messieurs,**

**14. Aujourd’hui, la Cour fait face à plusieurs défis. Nous connaissons aussi une grande activité judiciaire, avec :**

- un nouveau suspect,**
- trois procès en cours**
- et plusieurs appels.**

**15. Sous le leadership du Président, le nouveau Greffier aura un rôle important à jouer pour soutenir la Cour dans la réalisation de son mandat.**

**16. De plus, le Greffier est responsable de plusieurs centaines de fonctionnaires. Il gère un budget considérable.**

**17. À cet égard, la Présidence souligne le besoin de faire preuve de sérieux, responsabilité et transparence dans la gestion du budget.**

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**Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,**

- 18. As I welcome Mr Lewis to the Court, I must also take this opportunity to pay tribute, and express our gratitude, to all the Staff of the Court: not only those who Mr Lewis will lead directly in the Registry, but also the Staff in the Judiciary and in the Office of the Prosecutor.**
  
- 19. Often, their work is largely unseen and unsung, in the roles they play. But, much like the bones beneath the skin and the muscle, the structure cannot stand, let alone move well or move at all, without them.**
  
- 20. I have every trust that Mr Lewis will refresh their spirit and sense of well-being, as they continue to serve this Court that is also their own.**