



Coalition for the
International
Criminal Court

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ICC Assembly of States Parties Convenes for Last Scheduled Meeting in UN Secretariat

Ninety-Two Governments Meet to Move Forward the Establishment of the Court

(New York, September 8, 2003) – The ninety-two governments to have ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) will convene this week for the second session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) of the treaty. After nine years of ICC meetings at the UN headquarters in New York, beginning in 2004, the Assembly will hold its meetings in The Hague, The Netherlands, where this new international organization is based.

The meeting this week, chaired by the ASP President, Jordanian Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, will address a broad range of agenda items and hear statements from top ICC officials. The ICC President, Judge Philippe Kirsch of Canada; Prosecutor, Mr. Luis Moreno-Ocampo of Argentina; and Registrar, Mr. Bruno Cathala of France, are expected to report on the status of efforts to build the court and the first situations or cases that the ICC will investigate.

"During its first year the Assembly elected eighteen judges, a prosecutor, registrar and took major steps in building what will become one of the most important international organizations ever established," said William R. Pace, convenor of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court. Pace added, "This progress has been achieved despite the fierce opposition of the most powerful government in the world, a testament to the growing support for democracy, justice and the rule of law in international affairs." Georgia became the ninety-second country to join the ICC Assembly of States Parties on Friday, September 5, by depositing its instrument of ratification of the Rome Statute at the UN Treaty Office.

This second meeting of the ASP will address a range of topics including: the budget for the second fiscal year of the ICC, the election of a Deputy Prosecutor (Investigations), the election of the Board of Directors to the Victims' Trust Fund, the definition of the crime of aggression, the recognition of the International Criminal Bar and other oversight issues. The Deputy Prosecutor for investigations will be elected by secret ballot from a list of candidates provided to the ASP by the Prosecutor Moreno-Ocampo in August. Those nominees were: Mr. Serge Brammertz of Belgium, Mr. Hassan Bubacarr Jallow of the Gambia and Mr. Vladimir Tochilovsky of the Ukraine.

On September 3, 2003, a United Nations Security Council resolution appointed Mr. Hassan Bubacarr Jallow to Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; he subsequently withdrew his candidature for ICC Deputy Prosecutor through a communication to the ASP.

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For the web site of the International Criminal Court, please visit:

<http://www.icc-cpi.int>

For more information about the status of effort to build the ICC, please visit:

<http://www.iccnnow.org/buildingthecourt.html>

About the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court

The NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court (Coalition) is a global network of over 2,000 members working together in support of a permanent, fair and effective International Criminal Court. For more information, please visit <http://www.iccnnow.org>.