



**12th Annual Meeting of the ICC Trust Fund for Victims Board of Directors
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Amnesty International statement

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Distinguished Members of the Board, colleagues, good morning.

On behalf of Amnesty International, I am pleased to participate in the annual meeting of the Board of Directors.

Amnesty International is a strong supporter of the Trust Fund. Our organization played an active role in its establishment and we have repeatedly called upon states to make voluntary contributions, with a view to ensuring the successful implementation of its assistance and reparation mandates.

We are pleased to continue discussions with the Board and the Secretariat on a variety of issues towards ensuring its success in benefitting victims.

Today, I would like to raise and hope we can discuss strategies to address the biggest challenge facing the Trust Fund – its capacity to meet the massive demand to provide assistance to victims.

The importance of the Trust Fund's activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda is well documented and understood. We hope that suspended activities due to the security situation in Central African Republic can begin as soon as possible. However, there are of course five other situations where the ICC has commenced investigations where the Trust Fund is currently not active – Cote d'Ivoire, Darfur, Kenya, Libya and Mali. It is vital that the Trust Fund assists victims in these situations as soon as possible to keep pace with the activities of the ICC.

In addition, as we enter the reparations phase in two cases, Lubanga and Katanga, we shall see Trust Fund's reparation mandate come into play for the first time.

Amnesty International is concerned that, despite its significant efforts and generous contributions by 32 states to date, the Trust fund currently lacks the resources and capacity to fully execute both of its mandates fully and effectively.

In its decision of 3rd March 2015, the Appeals Chamber specifically instructed the Trust Fund to present a draft implementation plan for collective reparations no later than six months from the issuance of that judgement. The Appeals

Chamber held that the draft implementation plan that the TFV must submit must include the anticipated monetary amount that it considers would be necessary to remedy the harm caused by the crimes for which Thomas Lubanga was convicted.

The Appeals Chamber held that if Lubanga could not pay this that the Trust Fund for Victims advances its resources in order to enable the implementation of the order; it will be able to claim the advanced resources from Lubanga at a later date.

The Trust Fund still requires a significant increase in resources for new projects and staff in its Secretariat to meet these new challenges. We should and will continue to push more states to make regular voluntary contributions. But we must also recognize that this strategy by itself may not raise the resources required. The Trust Fund needs to expand its fundraising significantly to non-state sources. Amnesty International strongly supported the establishment of the new fundraising and visibility officer in 2015 and looks forward to learning more about the new fundraising strategies that the officer has been tasked initially to develop. It is vital that broader effective fundraising strategies are put into action without delay.

Furthermore, the Trust Fund needs to consider whether there are ways to distribute its existing resources to include those victims in other situations who have yet to receive any assistance. We welcome the fact that the Trust Fund is exploring the feasibility of new projects in Cote d'Ivoire and Kenya and hope these can be established promptly. But that still leaves Darfur, Libya and Mali, not to mention the possibility that investigations may be launched in other situations under preliminary examination by the Office of the Prosecutor in the near future.

As the Trust Fund expands its projects of assistance to new situations, it will be important to develop clear and transparent criteria to decide when to launch them and strategies to communicate with victims in situations where it is not yet active, so as to manage expectations and ensure the Trust Fund's role and mandates are clearly understood by victims, affected communities and other stakeholders.

We very much welcome the opportunity to engage in a dialogue at this Board meeting, and beyond into 2015.

Thank-you for your attention.