

**MAIN OUTCOMES  
OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES (ASP) OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

The fifth session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court took place in The Hague from 23 November – 1 December 2006. Below, we have tried to provide a brief summary of the most important developments coming out of the Assembly. Should you want more detailed information - including information about specific subjects like the crime of aggression or the general debate - please call the CICC's Hague office at: 070 311 1082 or go to our website at: <http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=asp5> where you will find detailed Daily Summaries of events for each day of the Assembly. NGOs from more than 50 countries participated as observers in the meeting and contributed to its success.

General Debate

After reports by the ICC and the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) the first formal “general debate” took place, providing very useful perspectives by States Parties, observer states, non-governmental organizations, and various international organizations (statements are available on the ICC website).

The 2007 ICC Budget

- The big divisive question was whether the ASP would adopt the report of its budget committee as ‘a package’ (a position supported by some states) or examine certain issues carefully (a position supported by other states).
- After a late night debate, States Parties found a compromise by adopting the committee’s report with the exception of three issues: (1) translation and (2) victims and witnesses costs, both of which must now be absorbed by the Court through financial flexibility (e.g, shifting budget lines when needed) and (3) cuts that were suggested for the Court’s outreach budget were rejected. States’ increased understanding for the importance of outreach was also reflected in many statements throughout the meeting.
- A budgetary resolution, suggested by Japan, on maximum assessment rates for the highest contributors was approved which will hopefully lead to Japan’s ratification of the ICC treaty.

Trust Fund for Victims

The Assembly re-elected four out of the five members of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims: His Excellency Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki from Poland, Madame Minister Simone Veil from France, His Eminence Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu from South Africa, and His Excellency A.N.R. Robinson from Trinidad and Tobago. The election of a fifth candidate from the Asia regional group has been deferred until the resumed session of the fifth ASP which will take place at UN Headquarters in New York from 29-31 January 2007.

### Strategic Plan

The Assembly adopted a resolution on the strategic planning process of the Court which cited appreciation of the efforts made by the Court to establish a Strategic Plan, a Strategic Plan for Outreach, and a Strategy on Information and Communication Technologies. The Assembly invited the Court to further develop dialogue on these strategies, specifically on the concrete implementation of the Strategic Plan, and to submit an update on this plan to the next session of the ASP.

### Review Conference, Crime of Aggression and Cooperation

The ASP took important steps towards the Review Conference to be held in 2009 or 2010, including a short but constructive discussion on the Crime of Aggression. Further, the ASP decided to improve its cooperation with the Court and sent a strong message to individual States and organisations that cooperation with the ICC is of urgent importance.

### Permanent Premises

A resolution that requests the ICC to focus on the site of the Alexanderkazerne as the sole option for the Court's premises was adopted. The Court has been requested to provide additional information about this option, including cost estimates and a timetable. The Bureau of the ASP was mandated to invite - if satisfied with this new information - the ICC' Host State, the Netherlands, to commence provisionally an international pre-selection process for architects.