

**FIFTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES OF
THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

DAILY REPORT

THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2006

General Debate

The General Debate that had begun yesterday continued. The following states made statements: Brazil, Liechtenstein, Namibia, Greece, Portugal, Croatia, South Africa, United Kingdom, Norway, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Venezuela, Austria, Mongolia, Comoros, Ghana, Sudan, and Yemen.

Non-governmental organizations were also given an opportunity to address the Assembly: the Coalition for the International Criminal Court; the DRC National Coalition for the ICC; Parliamentarians for Global Action; the Darfur Consortium; Human Rights Watch; International Criminal Bar; Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme; and the International Society for Traumatic Stress Study.

Budget and Finance

The Registrar provided a report on the Court's budget in the Plenary, highlighting the Court's methodology in creating the budget and the assumptions underlying the budget. The Registrar made specific reference to the Court's Outreach Strategy and the consequent budget request for outreach. He also mentioned the issue of cooperation and the principle of an e-court.

The Rapporteur of the Committee on Budget and Finance also provided an oral report of the CBF's recommendations. He explained that because of the increase in the Court's budget despite a decrease in the Court's assumed workload for 2007, the CBF had taken a close look at the Court's requested resources. The Rapporteur underlined that the Court would retain flexibility and could resort to the Contingency Fund if necessary.

The Plenary then gave way to the Working Group on the Budget, coordinated by Switzerland. Following a report by the External Auditor, the Chair of the Working Group on the Budget allowed for a segment of informal questions and answers addressed to the Registrar and the CBF Rapporteur.

Following this exchange, the Chair presented a list of issues that could guide the Working Group's work program. These issues included: external and internal auditor reports; the introduction of a proposal by CANZ on a ceiling cap for assessed contributions; the pension scheme for judges and conditions of service for both judges, the Prosecutor and the Deputy Prosecutor; technical issues such as the IT strategy, inflation, and re-classification; a thematic debate on outreach since many states had raised the importance of this issue in their interventions; cooperation between the ICC and states; detention costs; translation costs; victims protection; interim premises security costs; reimbursement by the Special Court for Sierra Leone; and a discussion on the budget preparation and presentation.

The CICC Budget and Finance Team was provided an opportunity to make a statement to the Working Group. The statement highlighted the need to accept the Court's resource request regarding outreach and the Victims and Witnesses Unit.

The Working Group then considered the External Auditor's report.

NGO Regional Lunches

As part of a long-standing tradition, NGOs met with state delegates over lunch to discuss ratification and implementation efforts. Two such regional lunches took place with respect to the Middle East and North Africa as well as Latin America and the Caribbean.