

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

DAILY REPORT

WEDNESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2006

Permanent Premises

After informal consultations on operative paragraph (OP) 6 of the draft resolution on Permanent Premises, the Working Group convened in the morning to preliminarily adopt the resolution. OP6 provides a mandate to the Bureau, once it deems it has received sufficient information regarding the Alexanderkazerne option, to allow the Host State to initiate a pre-selection of architects in advance of the architectural competition. However, this OP6 foresees that this mandate would not prejudice further consideration of the options at hand.

Omnibus Resolution

The informal consultations on the omnibus resolution continued this morning, with ongoing paragraph-by-paragraph review of the text. Some of the issues discussed included oversight, the Review Conference, arrears, and cooperation. The draft resolution has been informally finalized.

Crime of Aggression

The Working Group on the Crime of Aggression convened in the afternoon to adopt its report. The Working Group agreed on a new mandate for the chair to come up with a revision of the Coordinator paper.

Budget and Finance

Following informal consultations in the morning, the Working Group for the Budget discussed the draft report of the Working Group on the Budget (ICC-ASP/5/WGPB/CRP.1). After considering each paragraph of the report, the Working Group arrived to the consideration of the specific CBF recommended cuts, specifically concerning three issues: (1) translation; (2) Victims and Witnesses Unit; and (3) outreach. The Coordinator had proposed language in hopes of resolving these issues, noting that the first two items should be absorbed by the Court through flexibility, while the ASP would grant the requested resources on outreach. However, some states asked that outreach be also absorbed through flexibility, while other states maintained the importance of reinstating this resource request.

With no consensus having been reached, the Working Group convened again in the evening in hopes of resolving these issues and concluding the consideration of its report in view of adoption. As no consensus initially appeared on these three matters, the Working Group went on to consider other paragraphs of the report. It then considered the Resolution on budgetary matters, including the CANZ (Canada, Australia, and New Zealand) proposal on the issue of maximum assessment rates for contributions.

Following these discussions, the Working Group returned to the three unresolved matters. Those states that had initially raised concerns about the Coordinator's proposed compromise (United Kingdom, Australia, and Argentina) made statements expressing that, while they would have preferred accepting the CBF recommendations as a package, in light of the expressed importance placed on outreach, they were now willing to accept the substance of this proposal, provided that there would not be any additional decisions with budgetary implications.

Trust Fund for Victims

It has been confirmed that the election of four out of the five members of the Board of the Trust Fund for Victims will take place tomorrow. It remains unclear as to whether a candidate from Asia has been identified.

NGO Meetings

There was an informal meeting with the Prosecutor on gender issues. In response to a question regarding the appointment of the Gender Legal Adviser, the Office of the Prosecutor has decided not to have a combined position of Legal Adviser and Gender Adviser. Instead, Deputy Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda would act as focal point for external and internal gender issues. The Office of the Prosecutor will incorporate the position of a Gender Adviser in the OTP's Gender and Children's Unit.

At lunchtime, there were two regional meetings with governments during which governments and NGOs exchanged views on priorities for ratification and implementation. During the Africa regional lunch, several states committed that they would make draft implementation legislation available upon the conclusion of the ASP. With regards to the Asia and the Pacific regional lunch, there were about 15 delegates representing 11 states.

The CICC also organized an informal meeting with the Registrar. The Registrar spoke briefly before returning to participate in the Working Group on the Budget. Several members of the Registry answered questions especially about outreach, noting that some of the shortcomings of outreach were due to limited resources and that the Court hoped to do more.

There was a meeting of the Faith and Ethics Network of the ICC (FENICC) during which they discussed a manual on faith, peace, and justice. The participants shared some challenges of distributing the manual in the field.