



**The Consultative Conference on International Criminal Justice**  
September 9-11, 2009

Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) Three-Year Strategy & Plan

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**MacArthur Consultative Conference on International Justice**  
CICC Three-Year Strategy & Plan  
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*Conference Session 3: Coalition for the International Criminal Court*

The 2009 MacArthur Consultative Conference on International Justice will provide an important opportunity for strategic conversation among the range of actors involved in international justice. As part of this effort, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) will continue to refine its three-year strategy to support and strengthen the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the broader system of justice that is rooted in the Rome Statute, the Court's founding treaty.

The next three years are particularly important in that they may well indicate the end of one era of international law—that of victors' tribunals (Nuremburg and Tokyo), highly selective Security Council tribunals (ICTY and ICTR), and other ad hoc and special tribunals (Sierra Leone, Cambodia)—and the beginning of a new era of global justice established by the Rome Statute and the ICC. The recent AU summit declaration signals that there will continue to be fierce efforts by some governments, dictatorships, and other opponents of an independent Court to block the transition to this new era. Any three year strategy must integrate actions that can meet these challenges and move closer to a future in which justice is more accessible, transparent, and effective.

The Rome Statute envisions a two-pronged system of international criminal justice: one, the Court, and two, national justice systems. National courts and legal systems are expected to prosecute genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, with the ICC only acting when states fail to prosecute or are unable or unwilling to do so. This two-pronged system is reflected in the Coalition's efforts, which focus on both national and international systems. Ultimately, the success of the Rome Statute will be measured not only by ending impunity and bringing justice to victims, but also by the impact on the prevention and deterrence of massive crimes. The greatest opportunity for impact over the next several years lies in building a fair, effective, and independent Court in The Hague, as well as the adoption of comprehensive legislation that implements the Rome Statute and leads to the prosecution of grave crimes at various national levels.

The CICC is a global partnership of more than 2,500 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in 150 countries working to advance justice, to secure a fair, effective, and independent ICC, and to improve access to justice for victims of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The CICC was formed in 1995 from a small core group of leading human rights organizations and now includes thousands of NGOs from around the globe working on women and children's interests, victims rights, humanitarian concerns, and a wide range of other issues, all working in partnership to advance this new system of international justice and end impunity.

The key challenges of the upcoming years will require the input and action of a true global partnership. The CICC's structure, which includes an international secretariat

working in close collaboration at every level with the worldwide membership of NGOs engaged in justice, provides a unique and maximizing role for the contribution of civil society. Collaborating as well with governments, the UN, international institutions, and other organizations, this kind of wide membership and constituency means that the work of the CICC is rooted in such diversity and that all of the efforts and strategies advanced are always informed by this collective partnership.

Accordingly, the Coalition's strategy for 2009-2011 will focus on the following areas:

- **Mobilization for International Justice:** Building targeted public awareness of the ICC and strengthening support for justice at the national, regional, and international levels
- **Ratification & Implementation:** Broadening and diversifying the Court's reach and impact by spearheading the next stage of national and regional campaigns to ratify and implement the Rome Statute (with a focus on major powers, potential situation countries, and underrepresented regions)
- **Multi-level Advocacy for Cooperation:** Securing and facilitating the cooperation of and among states, the Assembly of States Parties (ASP), the United Nations (UN) and the UN Security Council (UNSC), and other multilateral institutions (including the African Union (AU), European Union (EU), and the Arab League) in fully enforcing this new system of justice
- **Strengthening & Monitoring the Court:** Engaging with the Court's operations and activities to ensure compliance with the highest standards of fairness, transparency, and independence

The first years of the Court's existence have strongly demonstrated the continued need for civil society to remain closely involved and coordinated. The ICC, States Parties, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, the media, and the greater public all need to pull in the same direction for the Court and Rome Statute system to be successful. As part of this effort to bring civil society and other groups together in a coordinated partnership, the CICC's strategy focuses on four key sets of actors:

- 1. The International Criminal Court & the Assembly of States Parties**
- 2. The United Nations & Regional Bodies**
- 3. National Legal Systems**
- 4. The Media & the Public**

#### **1. The International Criminal Court & the Assembly of States Parties:**

The International Criminal Court and the Assembly of States Parties are primarily responsible for the effective functioning of the Court. While the ASP carries the political and financial responsibility, the ICC implements the judicial mandate. Yet, each country, case, accused person, and victim is different, and beyond the purview of what the ICC alone can manage. Accordingly, civil society expertise is essential to the Court's continued progress on both structural matters (such as cooperation, victims' participation, and legal aid) and representational matters (such as country-specific challenges in Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia).

The support and expertise of civil society was a major force in the creation of the Court and the Rome Statute system, and nongovernmental actors are now more crucial than ever as the Court is faced with increasingly complicated challenges. As the largest NGO partnership engaged in ICC issues, the CICC will continue to play a key role in facilitating the input of civil society in furthering a functional and representative system of international justice.

In 2009-2011, the CICC will continue to monitor Court practices, policies, and structures to ensure that the concerns of civil society are incorporated in the ICC's ongoing development, as well as in the implementation of the Rome Statute in national laws. The ultimate beneficiaries of this work will be the victims who seek justice through a fair, effective, and independent Court. For fourteen years, the Coalition has tailored its outreach and tools to suit the diverse needs of its global membership and the many constituents that are served by its work. The Coalition Secretariat customizes information about judicial developments for both individual members and blocs of members, as well as analyzing the work of the Office of the Prosecutor and other institutional developments that may impact or inform the work of civil society groups.

States helped create the Court, and they will continue to carry the largest political and financial responsibility for the institution through the ASP. However, constructive engagement cannot be taken for granted. State involvement going forward must be both encouraged and monitored so that other interests (for example, financial or political) do not take disproportionate priority to the detriment of the Court and to ensure that states do not retreat from participation. Utilizing its Secretariat, Steering Committee, and broader membership, the Coalition will monitor and encourage states' ongoing involvement and work to make sure that the ASP makes informed decisions that will benefit the ICC and Rome Statute system. By organizing diplomatic briefings and providing background information on a wide range of ICC issues, the Coalition helps to ensure the informed participation of states. Through its Issue Teams, the Coalition will continue to maximize NGO impact by producing advocacy papers on issues on the agenda of the ICC and the ASP, in particular around the annual meeting of the ASP. The global NGO community will also have an important role in ensuring that ICC structures and resources are sufficient to promote the optimal functioning of the institution.

***Highlights of CICC plans for 2009-11 include:***

**Campaigning for State Cooperation with the ICC**

- The CICC will advocate for states' full compliance with their obligations under the Rome Statute, particularly with regard to cooperation with the Court. The implementation of the 66 recommendations on cooperation, adopted by the Bureau's Working Group in The Hague, provides an important checklist for states when implementing and setting priorities. The CICC's monitoring activities will identify cooperation deficits that negatively impact the fairness and effectiveness of the Court's work and integrate these conclusions into advocacy.
- On the government level, the CICC will arrange regular meetings with

government officials and prepare position and policy papers to reinforce the political will of governments that have ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute, urging foreign and justice ministries to take cooperation obligations seriously and to send a clear message to lower authorities that cooperation with the Court is a priority.

- On the civil society level, the CICC will support its national members and coalitions in key UN Security Council countries to ensure that the Council calls for cooperation with the Court (as in the case of Sudan); and will work with members and coalitions throughout Africa and other regions to call on their governments to cooperate with the Court, arrest and surrender suspects.
- At the ASP level, the CICC will campaign for the Assembly to take full responsibility for ensuring adequate cooperation with the Court through meetings and bilateral contacts. This will include swift and urgent action when the Court requests help in addressing the lack of cooperation by state or non-state actors.

### **Contributing to fair and effective proceedings for all involved parties**

- In 2009-2011, the CICC will work directly with our worldwide NGO membership, the Court, the ASP, and experts on victims' rights to ensure that lessons learned from the field and elsewhere are taken into account. While some CICC members and groups are well-placed to liaise directly with and to represent victims, the CICC is uniquely positioned to amplify these voices by identifying opportunities and creating platforms for effective exchange between all relevant actors. Key efforts in this regard involve consultations with the ICC on the development of the Court strategy on victims and public outreach to affected communities.
- The Court has yet to develop a clear legal aid system for victims' representatives. The Coalition will continue to advocate for a system that ensures adequate representation in the eyes of victims and allows for effective proceedings, with the aim of a draft system being presented to the ASP at the end of 2009. Once adopted, the Coalition will advocate for states' full support and funding for this system.
- The activities of the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) fall under the Coalition's Court monitoring program. Through the Coalition's Team on the Trust Fund for Victims, the Coalition will call for more transparent procedures and clear criteria for TFV projects so that the Fund receives the international recognition and support needed. The Coalition will also use its far-reaching network and experience with international elections to ensure that highly qualified candidates are nominated and elected to the TFV Board of Directors.

### **Ensuring civil society involvement in the strategic developments of the Court**

- In addition to the Court's strategy on victims and the strategic plans of the TFV, the CICC will ensure that the NGO community is effectively consulted so that the Court's strategies remain relevant and continue to reflect global civil society's expertise and experience.
- Through our national members and coalitions, the CICC will ensure that consultations on the strategy of the Prosecutor specifically include civil society

representatives from communities where the Office of the Prosecutor is actively investigating. Close consultations with the CICC in developing this strategy will be an important basis for NGO understanding of and support for the Prosecutor's work in the future.

- The Coalition will also continue to facilitate consultations with civil society on a number of other strategic documents for the Court (including but not limited to: the Court's overall Strategic Plan, communications strategy, and strategy regarding intermediaries).

### **Contributing to a successful Rome Statute Review Conference**

- The Coalition will involve NGO members in all stages and aspects of the Review Conference, building on the CICC role as a driving force behind careful and timely preparations for the Conference. The Review Conference provides a valuable opportunity to evaluate the impact of a number of campaigns and to then integrate, assess, and/or strengthen these efforts as appropriate.
- The Coalition plans to monitor the developments before and during the Conference and is prepared to step in with research, expertise, and advocacy in response to proposed amendments.
- During the Conference itself, the Coalition will formally coordinate member organizations into teams to follow issues on the agenda and facilitate the participation of the hundreds of civil society groups expected to attend. On the larger program of stocktaking, the Coalition will ensure that areas of greatest concern to members, including cooperation and universality, will be properly addressed and adequately prioritized for the future.
- The Coalition will closely monitor and respond as appropriate to any efforts by countries or regional bodies, such as the AU, to renegotiate text of the Rome Statute.

### **Campaigning for strong ICC structures, leadership, and sufficient resources**

- To achieve the Rome Statute's goals, the Assembly and Court must establish strong structures, elect and appoint strong leadership, and be supported with sufficient resources. ICC institutions include the three chambers of the Court (Pre-Trial, Trial and Appeals), the Presidency, the Registry, the Office of the Prosecutor, and the Trust Fund for Victims. Other structures to note include the ASP (composed of the State Parties, President and officers, Bureau, working groups, and subsidiary bodies, as well as The Secretariat of the ASP located at the ICC) and the UN liaison office director, which serves the ICC and ASP. The CICC and its members (in cooperation with like-minded governments, ASP and ICC officials, and others) are developing specific strategies and initiatives across the spectrum of the ICC and related institutions.
- To conform to the highest standards of fairness and independence, all three of the Court's chambers must be composed of impartial, highly-qualified, and representative judges. However, elections in international organizations are often marred by political considerations and vote-trading practices. To make the ICC election processes more accountable, the Coalition will broadly encourage States Parties to nominate highly qualified individuals and avoid "clean slates."

The CICC will also conduct questionnaires, interviews, and panel discussions with judicial nominees to give them the opportunity to elaborate on their expertise and provide a convincing argument as to their suitability for the position, a unique feature in an international election. Elections in the next three years will choose new Judges, a Chief Prosecutor, Trust Fund Directors, and members of the Committee on Budget and Finance.

- Internal elections and appointments at the ICC have been the subject of serious concern and the CICC will continue to strive for improved procedures. The CICC and the ASP are likely to jointly support strengthening the role, authority, and accountability of the Presidency of the ICC during the next two years as part of this effort.
- The CICC has monitored the development of the ICC budget since the establishment of the Court in order to ensure that budget constraints do not prevent the institution from working efficiently. Yet, with increasing pressure from states to limit growth, the Court has been forced to carefully balance budgetary requests. In 2009-2011, the CICC will submit recommendations to the ICC on the proposed budget to the ASP Committee on Budget and Finance (for the Spring and the Fall), and to the ASP's budgetary deliberations. A key goal of the CICC is to limit the wholesale importation of worst UN practices and procedures, especially in budget and financial areas. Successful advocacy at this level can also have the added benefit of paving the way for further, more substantive advocacy on other issues (for example, strengthened field offices, broadened outreach, and sufficient protection for witnesses).

## **2. The United Nations and Regional Bodies:**

The CICC will intensify efforts with international and regional multilateral organizations to ensure that their activities contribute positively and constructively to the fight against impunity and support justice efforts at the ICC and national levels. The ICC must continue to develop and maintain a constructive relationship with the United Nations. The support of the Secretary-General, the cooperation of the peacekeeping, humanitarian, legal affairs, refugee, and human rights agencies are crucial to the larger effort. Additional international and regional organizations must become committed to the ICC and Rome Statute system (from Interpol to ASEAN).

The global nature of the Coalition, both in terms of membership and staff, enables it to react where action is needed (at the international/UN or capital levels), as well as drawing on our global membership and contacts to ensure additional international and bilateral pressure where necessary. While some activities are continuous and permanent in nature (for example, vis-à-vis the UN and the EU), the CICC also maintains alliances and supports justice with other international and regional organizations when and where strategically relevant. This both broad and also reactive approach is based not only on the need to support justice for crimes taking place today, but also to ensure that the proper policies and strategies are adopted by organizations for crimes that might be committed tomorrow.

*Highlights of CICC plans for 2009-11 include:*

**Reinforcing the United Nations' role in the fight against impunity**

- CICC and NGO work with the UN will be successful only if it involves a broad spectrum of bodies and agencies as described above, with the UN Security Council being one of the most crucial current relationships. The UNSC provides important political capital to the Court and has the power to both refer situations to the Court (as with Darfur) and to defer an investigation when the Council rules that the effort could interfere with international peace and security. The CICC will continue to meet regularly with high-level officials and to engage in strategic advocacy with UNSC members to cooperate with the ICC, ensuring that the Council remains firm in its support of the Court.
- UN Security Council advocacy is reinforced through the vast CICC network of members who raise issues in capitals across the world. The CICC Secretariat briefs and provides regional and national NGOs with advocacy tools, so that these NGOs can then meet directly with Foreign Ministry officials as a complement to the UN-level advocacy carried out by NGOs in New York. Through the CICC, members share advocacy papers by larger international members (such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International) with smaller community-based NGO members so that these smaller members can, in turn, integrate such resources and arguments into national advocacy plans. This dual approach maximizes the efforts of the NGO community's UNSC work and often results in more effective advocacy.
- The CICC will continue its UN monitoring program, reporting to members and the public about ICC-related developments at the UN. This enables members to respond and target their advocacy and ensures that civil society efforts to advance the cause of international justice at the UN are both timely and relevant.

**Supporting the role of the European Union (EU) as a proponent of justice**

- The CICC will continue to prioritize and deepen collaboration with the EU, as EU policies and activities provide key opportunities for the Coalition to address the most urgent challenges facing the Court in the coming three years and beyond. EU governments contribute nearly 70% of the ICC budget, and these governments and EU institutions are linked to the rest of the world's governments and international organizations in a number of vital ways. The Coalition's Brussels-based Europe section maintains an extraordinary level of cooperation with EU institutions, engaging in day-to-day strategy and intelligence exchange with officials to maximize the ways and means to positively affect the ICC through hearings, meetings, advocacy, domestic judicial reform projects, and financial and technical support for ICC supporters. The CICC will work with the EU on developing its external policies, including implementing foreign policy options designed to provoke the arrest and surrender of ICC suspects, as well as encouraging the body to support states which actively cooperate with the ICC, to convince those who remain uncertain, and to demarche opponents.

**Adding force to allies within the African Union (AU)**



- In addition to the complexities of investigations in Africa, the Court now faces greater obstacles from some actors' strong opposition to the issuance of an arrest warrant for Omar Al-Bashir, the President of Sudan. The arrest warrant and other Court actions in the region have resulted in greater opposition to the ICC from within the African Union, whose member states were previously strong supporters of the Court and still reflect a membership that claims the largest regional block of ICC states parties. The CICC is assisting its ever-growing membership in Africa to address negative perceptions and reach out to opponents of the ICC. Advocacy initiatives with the AU will remain a priority during 2009-2011.
- To strengthen these efforts, the CICC is seeking to establish a stronger presence in the region to enable more permanent AU advocacy and to parallel our efforts in Brussels with the EU and in New York with the UN. As we deepen this presence, the Coalition also plans to increase missions to the AU, organize briefings with AU officials, and increase our support to national coalitions in Africa to further their advocacy with the AU.

### **3. National Legal Systems:**

The ICC is the centerpiece of a new system of international justice, but this system can only be successful if states assume primary responsibility for prosecuting war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide via national and regional courts with high judicial standards. In this way, the new system of justice is two-pronged, with both the ICC and states having a major role. Since its founding, one of the Coalition's central strategies has been to promote universal ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute. There are currently 110 States Parties to the Rome Statute. For the ICC to be perceived as a genuinely global institution, the support of every country must be actively enlisted. Many of the current criticisms waged against the Court are connected to perceived or actual imbalances in ICC cases (such as concern that the Court is unfairly investigating atrocities in Darfur vs. Gaza). Every additional state that joins the ICC extends the reach of the Court's jurisdiction, which includes the territory or nationals of States Parties. This in turn increases the number of countries that are obligated to cooperate with the Court and reduces the number of safe havens to which suspects may flee. Additional ratifications also spur the political and financial strengthening of the ICC. As such, the Coalition's global ratification effort is a fundamental aspect of both its short- and long-term strategies.

Current backlash by many Arab and some African states in response to the arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir could complicate the Coalition's ratification work. As a result, some states which were on the path to joining the Court may now indefinitely postpone ratification or accession to the Rome Statute. The CICC will engage in an assessment of this impact and alter strategies and plans accordingly. Progress in the campaign for universal support for the Court remains essential. In the next decade, the Coalition expects to obtain 20 more ratifications, which would bring the total number of States Parties to 129 (equaling two-thirds of the world's countries). This number is the "super-majority" necessary to maintain the momentum and commitment needed for the ICC to succeed. Over the next three years, the Coalition aims to achieve 7-

10 of these 20 new ratifications.

Implementation of the Rome Statute breathes life into the treaty's commitments and obligations by putting the Rome Statute standards to work in national contexts. Implementation typically involves two very different, yet equally important components: first, provisions that make cooperation with the Court possible; and second, provisions that provide a solid basis for domestic investigation and prosecutions of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Both components are essential and therefore areas of particular focus for the CICC's strategy. To date, 55 states have already enacted legislation with one or both of these components and over 40 have advanced drafts in process. The next three years will continue and expand this effort in key areas around the globe.

The process of implementing ICC-related legislation can also have a notable leveraging effect on national legal systems and can positively impact a country's broader human rights law. Many national laws are outdated, incomplete, and carry grave shortcomings in terms of human rights standards. The ICC implementation process can help modernize criminal and procedural codes, resulting in better national laws with higher standards of justice and more complete jurisdiction over serious crimes. Once these laws are in effect, they can then be applied to a range of national cases, including those outside of ICC jurisdiction.

It may be helpful to note that the Coalition's efforts in this area are focused on promoting and coordinating the global implementation campaign, thereby maximizing the efforts of Coalition members. The Secretariat does not take a position on the content of individual legislation but instead identifies civil society experts who can provide commentary and analysis to governments. The CICC works closely with NGO members and the International Committee of the Red Cross to carry out the activities described above, with the appropriate entity taking the lead, depending on national circumstances and available resources and expertise.

***Highlights of CICC plans for 2009-11 include:***

**Universal Ratification: Extending jurisdiction and reducing safe havens**

- Through both our monthly Universal Ratification Campaign (which targets a different country each month to join the Court), as well as a range of local activities on the ground (including press conferences and high-level government meetings with CICC staff and our most active members), the Coalition will continue to pressure governments to join more than half of the world in the global fight against impunity.
- The CICC will be carrying out periodic **advocacy missions** to selected countries to meet with national stakeholders, including Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Human Rights, as well as parliamentarians, judges, media, academics, and CICC national members. These missions draw attention and bring momentum to the ICC ratification process and help to clarify remaining steps. Coalition

- members also use missions as opportunities to create a national coalition and/or reinvigorate their activities around ICC promotion. The CICC will hold **semi-annual meetings** in each region, bringing together the most active regional members, Steering Committee members, and CICC Secretariat staff to discuss regional and national strategies, advances, obstacles, and action plans.
- The Coalition will work closely with **regional organizations** that have the capability to have a far-reaching positive impact on universality. The CICC works with a range of regional organizations (including the European Union, African Union, Organization of American States, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Arab League) to ensure that the ICC is prominent on their agendas. In addition, work with regional organizations provides an opportunity to maximize political will among respective member states in support of the ICC.
  - The CICC's strategic approach to the global ratification effort includes targeting four kinds of states, with a particular emphasis on chipping away at the resistance of the major and middle powers that have withheld support for the Court in the past. Lack of support from these powers has had many practical consequences and has undermined the Court's claims to universality. In many of these states, national CICC members have transformed ratification campaigns into a larger struggle to end impunity and rebuild a functioning judicial system in the wake of civil war, dictatorship, and other traumatic national events. The CICC Secretariat works closely with these members to share expertise on the ICC and on strategies that have worked in other countries to overcome obstacles and connect activists nationally, regionally, and internationally.

***The four categories of states include:***

- **Major and Middle Powers:** *Egypt, India, Russia, China, United States and Indonesia*
- **States in under-represented regions:** *Yemen, Bahrain, Morocco, Vietnam and Nepal*
- **At-Risk States/States in which ICC-level crimes have been or are reportedly being committed:** *The Philippines, Côte d'Ivoire, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Algeria, Haiti, Burma, China, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Israel*
- **States on the verge of ratifying and therefore likely to be swayed by an additional advocacy push:** *Moldova and Ukraine*

**Counteracting pressure to denounce or withdraw from membership in the Rome Statute**

- Recently, universality efforts have become more challenging in the face of threats to withdraw from the Rome Statute. The CICC will continue to ensure a united, strategic, and targeted NGO response when attempts to retreat from the Court are at stake (for example, as occurred in June 2009 when the Coalition mobilized African members and constituents to counter threats of withdrawal by African Union States Parties to the ICC). The CICC is recognized as an important source of information for government officials who make policy decisions with

significant consequences for the implementation of the Court's mandate.

### **Campaigning for universal implementation and enforcement**

- The Coalition monitors progress in target countries, awaiting a window of opportunity to advance legislation (for example, from the drafting committee to cabinet, or from cabinet to congress). While an impressive number of states have enacted legislation, in many cases, a leap forward in the process is followed by months (or even years) of delay, often due to elections or political crises, which can shift the national focus to other priorities. The engagement of the Coalition's civil society members in this process is vital to ensuring forward momentum in this often lengthy process.
- The CICC is currently monitoring and/or promoting implementation processes in more than 40 countries worldwide, with the goal that 12 make concrete advances toward implementation and 6 enact final legislation by 2011. The Coalition's implementation work targets countries that fit into three general categories:

- **Where an advanced draft law is before parliament/congress:**

#### ***Where an advanced draft law is before parliament/congress:***

*Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Comoros, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, France, Jordan, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Switzerland, and Uganda*

Once an advanced draft is before the legislative branch, the Coalition will identify strategic members of congress as allies in pushing the legislation forward and will hold advocacy meetings to further advance the draft law. Whenever possible, we will convene parliamentary briefings to familiarize a larger group of members of congress with the ICC.

- **Where an advanced draft law exists but has not yet gone before parliament/congress:**

*Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Bosnia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo-Brazzaville, Dominica, Ecuador, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Mali, Niger, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Turkey, and Ukraine*

Once an advanced draft has been developed and is under consideration by the executive branch (the draft typically requires review and comment by various ministries), the Coalition will work to enable civil society experts to review and comment on the law for government consideration. Key CICC comments have been incorporated into some of these drafts, resulting in stronger, more comprehensive laws. The Coalition will convene meetings with officials responsible for review and comment with the aim of moving the process forward. If a controversy or concern arises, we will provide comparative research to find a solution.

- **Where the government has committed to drafting a law, yet the process has not advanced:**

*Jordan, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Costa Rica, Cambodia, Madagascar,*

*Guinea, Chad, Gambia, Zambia, Albania, Bosnia, Austria, Italy, Russia, and Ukraine*

When a government expresses willingness to draft implementing legislation but is having problems making progress, the Coalition will attempt to remove any obstacles. If political will is lagging, the CICC will write advocacy letters and meet with the Foreign Minister and other responsible officials. If the cause of delay seems to be a lack of human or technical resources, the Coalition will try to match needs with the expertise and willingness of NGO members or of a specialized organization with expertise in implementation (such as the International Committee of the Red Cross or the Council of Europe).

- The Coalition and its members will continue to use developments in jurisprudence at the ICC to inform local efforts to ensure accountability for grave crimes and to modernize national criminal laws so that domestic judicial systems can be better equipped, trained, and able to carry out justice for victims of atrocity crimes.

#### **4. The Media and the General Public**

The success of the Rome Statute system depends largely on widespread understanding of the ICC as a fair, effective, and independent mechanism for dealing with the grave crimes under the Court's jurisdiction. The media, affected communities, the general public, and even many government officials remain largely uninformed about ICC-related issues. This lack of understanding contributes to both practical and strategic obstacles in the effort to secure justice. The Coalition, through its diverse and active membership, is uniquely positioned to inform and impact key actors on the urgency and importance of international justice. The ultimate goal of the Coalition and its members is to ensure that justice is reinforced as a key pillar of any long-term peace and security solution in the minds of both citizens and policymakers.

CICC messaging reflects NGO members' core advocacy concerns and initiatives: universality, the rights of victims, the concerns of affected communities, and the importance of fair and independent judicial proceedings. CICC public statements are focused on reflecting the diversity of views within the global community of NGOs engaged in international justice, particularly including those of civil society experts on key issues such as women and children's rights.

The CICC website is considered a leading portal both for those new to international justice and for those who are closely engaged with the issues. With this in mind, the Coalition recently revamped its website to provide a more accessible interface and will continue to refine and upgrade the site in response to evolving needs. The latest redesign focuses on easier navigation and more effective sharing of content for the various audiences that access the website. In addition, the site more prominently displays the work of a range of national and local NGOs through a new "Civil Society at Work" section and a blog that features member opinions on the most pressing issues before the Court.

The Coalition's flagship journal, *The Monitor*, is a crucial conduit for sharing the views

of civil society in affected regions. Produced twice a year, the journal features expert opinions from member organizations and highlights the concerns of both local and global civil society organizations on some of the Court's most urgent challenges—from the tension between peace and justice in situation countries such as Sudan and Uganda to the modalities of victims' participation in ICC proceedings. In addition to *The Monitor*, the bi-monthly *Bulletin* and our regional newsletters also highlight the work of civil society and ensure that the Coalition's core mandate is fulfilled: to strengthen international cooperation with the ICC; ensure that the Court is fair, effective and independent; make justice both visible and universal; and advance stronger national laws that deliver justice to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

On the occasion of the opening of the Court's first trial, the Coalition launched a new blog, *In Situ: See Justice through the Eyes of Civil Society*. The blog aims to facilitate direct dialogue between members on the ground, international justice experts, and the broader public. Through the contributions of our members, *In Situ* bridges the gap between populations affected by the crimes under the Court's investigation and the ICC's daily activities at its headquarters in The Hague.

***Highlights of CICC plans for 2009-11 include:***

**Raising the profile of NGO work and influencing the media**

- The Coalition will issue press releases and media advisories to the network of more than 5,000 journalists around the world on important issues. The CICC will generate media statements, press releases, and/or suggested talking points on the occasion of major Court and Coalition developments, for each of our monthly ratification target campaigns, and to commemorate key international days of awareness (such as International Women's Day on 8 March and International Justice Day on 17 July). In each media statement, the CICC includes full contact information for civil society experts. These experts are then often called upon by prominent media outlets for on-the-record commentary about the Court.
- The Coalition will continue to reach out to journalists to place NGO members in the news (including specific emphasis on the placement of experts from situation countries into international news outlets) to ensure that their voices are front and center in the reporting on any major ICC-related development.
- On a monthly/semi-monthly basis as appropriate, the Coalition will organize targeted press briefings that feature NGO members for journalists at the UN, on location during regional meetings, in The Hague, and during staff missions to both situation and non-situation countries. The Coalition will also fund national or regional NGOs to organize specific press briefings as needed.
- In addition, the Coalition will continue to correct inaccurate coverage of the Court, push for more extensive and balanced news about international justice issues, and keep our extensive media network regularly informed of relevant developments. The CICC will continue to partner with local NGOs in drafting and placing op-eds and securing radio/television appearances to further advocacy goals. Most recently, the CICC drafted and placed an opinion piece by the Senegalese national coalition coordinator in the country's leading paper, *Le*

*Quotidien*, to counter calls for Senegal to withdraw from the Rome Statute. The piece ran publicly while the African Union considered passage of a resolution calling on the withdrawal of African states from the Court.

### **Moving civil society, governments, and other constituents to take action through regular, accessible updates**

- The CICC uses its 16 listservs in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, and Portuguese, to provide regular, daily updates on Court developments to civil society and other international justice experts and followers.
- The CICC provides summarized news coverage in the international and local press on ICC-related issues to ensure that various audiences are informed and poised to respond to the most urgent actions.
- The Coalition closely tracks coverage of NGOs and CICC staff in the press to help members keep tabs on media outlets and specific journalists who are covering the Court.
- The CICC will maintain media monitoring reports that track coverage of reporting on situations currently before the Court, organizing the results by pro-, anti-, and neutral ICC leanings.

### **Developing and sharing communication tools for members, Court officials, states parties, and high-level international justice experts**

- The CICC will continue to produce and circulate *The Monitor*, both in print and electronically in English, French, and Spanish (as well as a shortened Arabic version), to a combined readership of more than 100,000 international law experts, government, Court and UN officials, and Coalition members on a biannual basis.
- The CICC will continue to showcase the contributions and expertise of civil society on the ground and any developments in The Hague through the bi-monthly *Bulletin*. This publication is a summary of developments at the Court and at the Coalition and is provided in print in English, French, and Spanish. Each electronic issue of the *Bulletin* also features hyperlinks to further information for members urging government officials to join the Court or for pressing Court and UN officials to uphold the integrity of the ICC. The combined print and electronic readership of the *Bulletin* tops 50,000 annually.
- The CICC will continue to produce regional newsletters in multiple languages to be distributed to local, national, and regional NGO members who rely on our updates to inform their own outreach to government officials, the broader public, and members of the media.
- On landmark occasions (A recent example: the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute), the Coalition will produce special advocacy brochures with specific recommended actions for different key sets of actors (e.g., non-states parties to the Court, States Parties, and intergovernmental organizations such as the UN and regional organizations). The Coalition will also support member efforts in designing and placing newspaper advertisements on key occasions.
- The Coalition will continue to further revamp the website, including adding a campaign feature to facilitate the direct involvement of our members and

- supporters in various advocacy efforts.
- The Coalition will work with the Public Information and Documentation Section of the Court through the CICC Team on Communications and Outreach, which includes our most active member experts on communications, to develop a stronger outreach and public information strategy. With the start of the first trials, the need for clear and effective public information and outreach has become a matter of urgent priority and will be crucial in ensuring that there is adequate information about the Court to affected communities and situation countries, as well as to the general public.

**Conclusion:**

The CICC is engaged in nearly every aspect of the ICC and Rome Statute system. As such, the CICC works in close collaboration with a wide range of key actors, including the ICC and ASP, the UN and regional bodies, national legal systems, the media and public networks, as well as with other philanthropic and institutional partners. Engagement from every actor and sector will be crucial in addressing the most current challenges faced by the Court and in securing a future in which justice is visible and accessible to all. Close collaboration, input, and partnership from every region and actor will help ensure that the Court operates most effectively and transparently and that the ICC functions as part of a broader international justice system. Through a committed, global effort involving civil society, major advancements can be made in the areas of mobilization for international justice, ratification and implementation, multi-level advocacy for cooperation, and strengthening and monitoring the Court with the ultimate goal of ending impunity and creating a more just world.





# Coalition for the International Criminal Court



**Coalition Steering Committee:**  
Amnesty International  
Andean Commission of Jurists  
Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos  
CIRDDOC



**Fédération Internationale des Droits de l'Homme  
FORUM ASIA**



**Human Rights First  
Human Rights Watch  
HURINET-Uganda**



**No Peace Without Justice  
Parliamentarians for Global Action  
REDRESS**



**Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice  
World Federalist Movement**

