

CICC MENA REGIONAL STRATEGY MEETING
AMMAN, JORDAN, 27-28 SEPTEMBER 2010

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) organized the “Strategy Meeting for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region on the International Criminal Court” in Amman, Jordan from 27-28 September 2010 which was attended by CICC NGO members from the Middle East and North Africa from the following countries: Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt, Palestine, Iraq, Tunisia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Yemen, and Jordan.

Participants expressed concern about the lack of tangible developments in support of international criminal justice and failure to take adequate steps to achieve ratification of or accession to the Rome Statute, as well as failure to take the necessary measures to amend national legislation;

Participants noted the seriousness of violations that occur in the region and the continuing culture of impunity, which in turn results in the continuation of such crimes;

Participants reiterated the importance of supporting the international effort to ensure international criminal justice and to put an end to impunity;

Accordingly, participants recommended the following:

To Middle Eastern and North African states:

- Participants called on governments to take all necessary steps to **ratify or accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC** as soon as possible in order to ensure that the region no longer remains the most unrepresented at the ICC;
- Participants called on governments to fully **implement the Rome Statute** through domestic legislation with respect to cooperation and crimes within the Rome Statute; and to ratify or accede to the **Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC)**;
- **Establish partnerships with civil society experts** at all stages of national ratification and implementation processes;
- Calling on governments to cooperate with the Court **with respect to the cases before it**;
- Urging states to actively participate in all ICC-related events including the meetings of the Assembly of States Parties to the ICC, and other related issues of particular expertise;
- Calling on governments to support **capacity building efforts on the ICC**;

- Participants highlighted the importance of following up on the outcomes of the Review Conference to express commitment towards ending impunity by **making concrete pledges** on the various substantive issues fundamental to the work of the International Criminal Court: universality, cooperation, complementarity, peace and justice, and the impact of the Rome Statute on victims and affected communities;
- Calling on governments not to enter into bilateral agreements contrary to the spirit and letter of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

We call upon the International Criminal Court to:

- Conduct necessary outreach on the International Criminal Court in the region;
- Ensure regular visits and meetings between representatives of the ICC and different stakeholders including civil society;
- Emphasize the importance of fact-finding in areas that are exposed to conflicts and the importance of a rapid conclusion of the situation in Palestine;
- Facilitate the participation of representatives of civil society in the region to attend meetings of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court;
- Increase outreach material in Arabic on the International Criminal Court.

With respect to the League of Arab States:

- Calling on the League of Arab States to urge its state members to ratify and accede to the Rome Statute;
- We commend the adoption of the **Arab Model Law Project on Crimes within ICC Jurisdiction**, and we call upon the League to activate this draft law;
- **Calling on the League to provide any necessary assistance to states** to amend their national legislation to bring it in line with the Rome Statute;
- Calling on the League to take a greater role in the meetings of the International Criminal Court;
- We call on the Arab League to **step up diplomatic support** for the Court and promote the fight against impunity in all political dialogues with member states and international organizations;
- **Continue supporting ICC initiatives by global and local civil society in Arab League member states;**
- **We urge the Arab League to provide the necessary cooperation with the International Criminal Court with respect to cases before it, and not to obstruct and impede the work of the Court;**
- We commend the initiative of the League of Arab States to convene an international conference in Qatar on the International Criminal Court, and appeal to the League to set a date for this conference, and to invite civil society's participation.

To other International Organizations, we recommend:

- **EU:** to encourage EU missions in the region to promote the ICC during their contacts with the states, NGOs, and civil society in general, whether by advocating for the Court or by sponsoring ICC activities, and to include ratification and/or cooperation with the Court as a condition of European partnership with governments in the region;
- **ICRC:** to encourage ICRC delegations to be in frequent contact with governments in the region with the aim of organizing local activities on the ICC, and to provide technical support and expertise on the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute to states requesting such assistance;
- **OHCHR:** to encourage OHCHR delegations in the region to cooperate towards enhancing perceptions of the ICC in the region, and to organise training courses for stakeholders and various civil society institutions.

To the CICC Secretariat:

- Intensify and increase the work in the region;
- Continue to provide member organizations with **timely information** on the ICC and ICC-related issues to be discussed at the ASP, and on CICC strategies and policies; and to ensure that members are able to give timely input on issues;
- Continue targeted **awareness raising activities** on the ICC and the Rome Statute with states, media, NGOs, students, universities and others;
- Continue to develop **action plans and advocacy materials** for national coalitions and members to implement CICC strategies at the national level;
- Increase the Arabic publications on the ICC and the CICC;
- **Increase regular communications, exchange mechanisms** and opportunities between coalition members and the Secretariat, in relation to strategies, campaigns and activities;
- Facilitate communications and cooperation between international and regional organisations and local civil society in the region, and ICC experts;
- Conduct annual meetings for the members of the CICC with the purpose of adopting an annual work plan to guide national coalitions on planning and developing strategies annually;
- Work to choose one or more nationally recognized individuals to serve as ambassadors to support international criminal justice;
- Provide members with information about international and regional conferences on international criminal justice;
- Include Arab organizations in the Steering Committee of the CICC.

To National CICC Coalitions and Members:

- Intensify efforts to urge governments to ratify and implement the Rome Statute and the APIC, as well as to strengthen cooperation with the Court;
- Stressing the importance of building networks to coordinate efforts between the national and regional coalitions to support the International Criminal Court;
- **Consider joining the teams** of the Coalition that work on thematic issues;

- **Include the ICC accession and ratification campaign in broader national and regional campaigns** for human rights, the rule of law and democratization;
- **Encourage key civil society organizations** that are not yet active in the ICC campaign to get involved by joining the CICC and its respective national and regional coalitions, **and contributing to ICC campaigns in every way possible**;
- Continue **the dialogue with key national authorities** involved in the ICC process;
- **Conduct media campaigns and establish media networks between national coalitions and different NGOs, and coordinate with different media outlets**;
- Conduct studies on the International Criminal Court;
- Urge states to adopt pledges with the aim of supporting the International Criminal Court;
- Document violations that fall within the jurisdiction of the Court;
- Stressing the importance of providing the CICC with relevant information about any activities on the ICC;
- **Seek cooperation with other international organizations** and urge them to cooperate with the ICC and to not obstruct its work. Such organizations include: the Organization of Islamic Conference, Inter-Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Conference, the Arab Parliamentary Union, Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Maghreb Union, the Organization of African Conference, NAFTA, and other organizations;
- Follow up on the progress of the Recommendations mentioned herein.

Signatories/Participants to the Meeting:

- Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession – Egypt
- The Egyptian Coalition for the International Criminal Court
- The Arab Coalition for the International Criminal Court
- The Palestinian Center for Human Rights – Palestine
- Justice Without Frontiers – Lebanon
- The Lebanese Coalition for the International Criminal Court – Lebanon
- The Iraqi Commission for the International Criminal Court – Iraq
- The Moroccan Coalition for the ICC – Morocco
- The Bahraini Coalition for the ICC – Bahrain
- The Gulf Coalition for the ICC
- The Kuwaiti Coalition for the ICC – Kuwait
- Human Rights Training and Information Center – Yemen
- The Jordanian Coalition for the ICC – Jordan
- Arab Organization for Human Rights – Jordan
- Karameh – Jordan
- Adaleh Center for Human Rights Studies – Jordan
- Sisterhood is Global Institute – Jordan

****To sign on to the Final Recommendations, please email: mena@coalitionfortheicc.org.***