

Presentation to the Trust Fund for Victims Board of Directors**21 March 2011**

Excellencies,
Mr. Pieter de Baan,
Ms. Kristen Kalla,
Colleagues,

On behalf of William Pace, the Convenor of the Coalition who couldn't be here today, I would like to thank you for the invitation extended to civil society to address the Board of Directors at its 8th annual meeting here in The Hague. Since the first annual meeting in 2004, NGOs have been invited to attend a session with the members of the Board and it is an honour for the Coalition and its members to be given this opportunity to address such a distinguished audience and to engage in an open dialogue with the members of the Board who all unite experience, commitment and integrity. The support of NGOs for the Trust Fund for Victims is as vigorous and strong as it was in the initial years: the 2500 member organisations of the CICC all want to see the Rome Statute system succeed. The Trust Fund for Victims is an important component of this system in being a major point of reference for victims of the most heinous crimes under the jurisdiction of the Court.

Within the Coalition for the ICC, there are several structures in place that work on victims' issues relating to the ICC but also specifically on the Trust Fund. The Victims Rights Working Group is an important one. Another is the Coalition's Trust Fund for Victims Team. The **Victims Rights Working Group**, created under the auspices of the Coalition and facilitated by REDRESS, is a network of over 300 national and international civil society groups and experts created to ensure that victims' rights are effectively protected and respected, and that their needs and concerns are met throughout the ICC's judicial process. The **Coalition's Trust Fund for Victims Team** monitors and provides input to the effective setting and functioning of the Trust Fund. The Team has been operational for a number of years. It participated actively to the drafting of the Trust Fund Regulations in 2004-5, has engaged with the Trust Fund Secretariat as soon as it became operational and has sought to contribute to various Trust Fund documents, including its Strategic Plan. It has also provided independent advice in relation to key Trust Fund issues at the sessions of the Assembly of States Parties and related structures. All my colleagues present here today are members of this Team. The Team also includes many other NGOs. Bigger global organisations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch provide their knowledge, but also a number of smaller local NGOs. These structures are truly committed to the Trust Fund and form a valuable resource of unique expertise to it.

2011 is a very important year for the ICC and the Rome Statute system of justice. There is a substantial increase of judicial activity, with now situations under preliminary analysis in ten countries examination by the prosecutor, with Libya being the sixth formal investigation recently opened, and the expected commencement of the fourth ICC trial. This year of course, we await the possible first judgment in an ICC trial, which will very likely allow the Trust Fund for Victims to fulfill, for the first time, its reparations mandate. All actors in the Rome Statute system of justice will need to make sure that this right to reparations is granted is a most meaningful way to ensure to restorative benefices of the Rome Statute system, a system which is truly one of the greatest advances ever in international law. There are many challenges that the Chambers, the Registry, the Trust Fund and local partners will face to implement Reparations.

Rest assured that civil society is already involved in the preparations to this new phase and will monitor and help in great partnership with the TFV, to ensure that Reparations will be a successful means in the rehabilitation of victims.

This is also the year to ensure that the momentum created by the Review Conference in Kampala is maintained, including the translation of the outcomes of the stocktaking exercise on the impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and affected communities into very concrete measures. Outreach and managing victims' expectations, especially with respect to reparations fall within that scope. Following the pledges made in Kampala to the Trust Fund, and very well knowing the extent of the Trust Fund being resource challenged, it is with great pleasure that we learned today of the unprecedented contribution from the United Kingdom.

We are very appreciative of the constructive and good relationship that the Trust Fund Secretariat has established with representatives of civil society, which continues under the leadership of the new Executive Director. In light of all the developments at hand, this year will also be one to strengthen even further the partnership between the Trust Fund and civil society, by ensuring a continuous and year-round dialogue.

In addition to its continuing support for the work of the Trust Fund for Victims, the Coalition for the ICC is very much engaged in the upcoming elections that will take place this year and which will lead to the most significant changes in leadership of the ICC and Rome Statute system since its creation. Amongst others, six new judges, a new Prosecutor and a new President will be elected. Through its campaign to ensure transparent and merit-based elections, the Coalition will endeavour to make sure the newly elected official will be supportive and have an understanding of the importance of victims' related issues.

My colleagues

- Mariana Pena – The International Federation for Human Rights or FIDH
- Brigid Inder – Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice
- Mariana Goetz – the REDRESS trust
- Guy Mushiata - International Center for Transitional Justice
 - Ruben Carranza

will now present on different aspects of the work of the Trust Fund and their own activities.

We sincerely hope that our presentations today and the open exchange we will have this morning, will be useful to you and the meetings you will have today and tomorrow.

Thank you very much for your attention.