

ICC UPDATE

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As of November 14, the Rome Statute of the ICC has:

**92 ratifications &
139 signatures**

The Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court has:

**2 ratifications &
33 signatories**

“The influence of the Rome Statute, which created the Court, is already being felt. An increasing number of states, both parties to the Court and non-parties, have altered their national legislation in order to proscribe genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, as defined by the Rome Statute. This is extremely important, as the Rome Statute clearly demands that states play the principal role in prosecuting these crimes.”

- **Akua Kuenyehia**, *Vice-President of the International Criminal Court, at the swearing in ceremony of the Deputy Prosecutor*

DEPUTY PROSECUTOR BEGINS WORK

With the arrival of Deputy Prosecutor for Investigations at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, the first permanent global criminal court moves another step closer to being fully operational. Serge Brammertz, 41, was sworn in on Monday, November 3, 2003, to serve a six year term leading the investigative work of the court's Office of the Prosecutor.

The NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court welcomes the appointment of Mr. Brammertz as part of the steady progress in the establishment of the ICC. The selection of Mr. Brammertz, who has significant experience in transnational cooperation in the prosecution of crimes, greatly reinforces the ability of the ICC to conduct international investigations and to strengthen the capacity of national courts to try the most serious international crimes.

With fourteen years of prosecutorial experience, Mr. Brammertz previously held the top prosecutorial office in



Serge Brammertz was sworn in as the ICC's Deputy Prosecutor for Investigations in a ceremony held in The Hague on November 3.
Credit: ICC-CPI/Wim Van Capellen

Belgium where he oversaw the coordination of national and international investigations of organized crime, terrorism and violations of international humanitarian law. His focus on cross-border cooperation between prosecutors and police forces has led him to develop a familiarity and rapport with prosecutors around the world, including those within U.S. law enforcement agencies. In addition to fluency in the two working languages of the

court - English and French - Brammertz speaks German and Dutch, and has a working knowledge of Spanish.

Nominated by the ICC's chief Prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo of Argentina, Mr. Brammertz was then elected in September by the 92 nations to have ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute. With the installation of Mr. Brammertz, the ICC is further prepared to initiate its first investigations.

MEXICO: PROMOTING RATIFICATION



Earlier this year, the Coalition and its members launched an exciting Universal Ratification campaign focusing on one country each month, rotating to a different region each time. The target country for November is MEXICO.

While members continue to

promote regional ratification campaign strategies, the Universal Ratification Campaign is a worldwide complementary effort devoted to urging members to redouble their efforts to promote universal acceptance of the ICC. Local actions are needed to promote aware-

ness of the International Criminal Court; increase media coverage; urge governments to ratify the Rome Statute; adopt effective implementing legislation and ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities.

More information on the campaign is on page 5.



REGIONAL UPDATES ON RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROME STATUTE

AFRICA

Burkina Faso

21 October 2003

The National Assembly has voted in favor of the ratification bill. Once the Constitutional Court has approved the ratification bill, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is expected to prepare the instrument of ratification for deposit at the UN.

Congo – Brazzaville

24 September 2003

The Cabinet has approved the ratification bill. The text is expected to be sent to Parliament for discussion.

Côte d'Ivoire

October 2003

The National Assembly has scheduled a discussion on ratification of the Rome Statute during its current session.

"The establishment of the International Criminal Court is a concrete expression of the determination of the international community to put an end to the perpetration of heinous crimes against humanity. We have no misgivings that the ICC will go a long way in ensuring the promotion of international criminal justice and the intensification of the fight against impunity.

...My delegation will continue to contribute to the enhancement of the work of the Court and also cooperate with other countries in this regard. It is our view that only a universal adherence and participation by all states that can give fuller meaning to the Statute. We therefore urge all States that are not yet Parties to the Statute to do so. We accordingly call for increased cooperation among all States and between the ICC and relevant entities."

-- Mr. Felix E. Awanbor,
Minister, Permanent Mission
of Nigeria to the UN, during
the 6th Committee
discussion of the ICC

AMERICAS

Argentina

5 November 2003

The implementing legislation was on the agenda of the Senate session on 5 November 2003, however, was not passed because of a lack of quorum for voting.

Brazil

November 2003

The Civil House (Casa Civil) of the Presidency of the Republic is analyzing the draft bill on implementing legislation that would allow Brazil to exercise its primary jurisdiction over crimes under the Rome Statute.

Honduras

November 2003

A Committee on the Revision of the Penal Code has begun to discuss the chapter on the definition of crimes, including crimes under international law.

Peru

6 November 2003

The Congress has extended the work of the Special Committee in charge of revising the Criminal Code (Comisión Especial Revisora del Código Penal) for one additional year, until October 2004. The Committee has already completed revision of the part of the Criminal Code that refers to the crimes under the Rome Statute.

Uruguay

5 November 2003

On 31 October 2003, the Uruguayan Senate passed the implementing legislation bill, which covers both complementarity and cooperation. Discussion of the bill in the Chamber of Deputies started on 5 November 2003, and NGOs have been invited to deliver comments.

ASIA

Japan

September 2003

At the UN Security Council open debate on Justice and the Rule of Law in September 2003, Japan reiterated its support for the International Criminal Court and has expressed its intention to accede to the statute. Also, The Komei Party, one of the ruling coalition parties in Japan, has officially included "Japan's early accession to the ICC" in its party manifesto.

Mongolia

20 October 2003

Two representatives from the Netherlands government recently visited Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to discuss implementation of the Rome Statute with Mongolian government officials. The government confirmed that they are engaged in implementing the Rome Statute into national legislation. As such, the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs has formed a working group to make amendments to the Mongolian Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Law, and will seek collaboration with the Mongolian Coalition for the ICC in organizing a training on implementation for the working group in December of 2003.

EUROPE

Armenia

September 2003

In August 2003, a new criminal code for Armenia entered into force. Section 13, entitled "Crimes against peace and human security", provides the definition of genocide (art. 393); serious breaches of international humanitarian law during armed conflicts (art. 391); and crimes against humanity (art. 392). While not applying for most of the crimes included in section 13, the new legislation also regulates the statute of limitations for crimes against humanity. The English translation of the Armenian criminal code is available at:

www.legislationline.org/data/Documents/Armenia_Criminal_Code_2003.htm

Croatia

23 September 2003

At the second session of the Assembly of States Parties in September 2003, Croatian Minister of Justice Ingrid Anticevic-Marinovic remarked that her country was undertaking the necessary adjustments to its legislation in order to create conditions for the implementation of the Rome Statute and to reinforce legal mechanisms guaranteeing complementarity between the national jurisdiction and the ICC. Croatia also signed the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court on 23 September 2003.

Ireland

9 September 2003

On 11 August, the Minister of Justice published a comprehensive piece of legislation, dealing both with substantive criminal law and cooperation with the Court. The bill introduces into the Irish legislation the definition of crimes against humanity, war crimes, ancillary crimes and crimes against the administration of justice (Part 2). Among other issues, the bill also regulates requests for arrest and surrender by the ICC, as well as the enforcement of ICC rulings (Part 3). The bill is before the Lower Parliamentary Chamber and is listed for consideration during the current Parliamentary session. In addition, Ireland signed the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC) on 9 September 2003.

"It may be said that the most important recent development in international criminal justice is the birth of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Government of Japan has consistently supported the establishment of the ICC and welcomed it when the Rome Statute came into force. In order for the ICC to be effective and universal, it is necessary for a large number of countries to be able to regard the Court as their own. We therefore consider it crucial that the ICC meet the expectations of as many countries as possible in conducting its activities."

-- H.E. Amb. Haraguchi,
Permanent Representative of
Japan to the United Nations,
during the Security Council
Open Meeting on Justice and
the Rule of Law

"We also hope from our point of view that the International Criminal Court will eventually remove the need for separate international tribunals. As a party to the Statute, the United Kingdom is fully committed to the Court, and we have fully accepted its jurisdiction. That said, we all know that justice is always best delivered at a national level. Therefore, international mechanisms should be a last resort. But the problem is that conflict often breaks out in exactly those societies where democratic structures, including an independent judiciary, are weak. The international community must therefore provide better resources and expert assistance to help rebuild or establish robust democratic structures, including courts."

--H.E. Mr. Jack Straw,
Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs
of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern
Ireland, during the Security
Council Open Meeting on
Justice and the Rule of Law

EUROPE

Italy

September 2003

Last year, two ad hoc interdepartmental commissions on cooperation and substantive issues were set up in order to continue preparing the necessary draft implementing legislation. The Commission on substantive adaptation has finalized its work and will soon submit it to the Ministry of Justice.

Netherlands

1 October 2003

The International Crimes Act, passed by the Senate on the 17 June and formally adopted on 19 June 2003, entered into force on 1 October 2003. Genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and torture are now brought under one bill. Crimes against humanity had not been punishable in The Netherlands before. The other crimes were already punishable under Dutch law, but were spread over various laws.

Poland

September 2003

The Ministry of Justice has reportedly commissioned a legal analysis on the extent to which the Criminal Code complies with Articles 5-8 of the Rome Statute.

Serbia and Montenegro

October 2003

In October 2003, a working group began preparing the final draft text of Serbia and Montenegro's Law on Cooperation with the ICC. The draft should be finalized in December 2003, after which it should follow the legislative procedure. Amendments to the Law on Criminal Procedure have been made (e.g. on the possibility of surrendering domestic citizens to a "recognised international court").

NORTH AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST

Bahrain

September 2003

Bahrain sent Justice Ministry officials as observers to the Assembly of States Parties in September 2003. They expressed interest in NGO assistance in the ratification campaign.

Iran

September 2003

Iran sent legal officials as observers to the Assembly of States Parties in September 2003. While Iran is not likely to ratify the Rome Statute soon, officials have stated that the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Director for Legal Affairs of the Foreign Ministry are conducting a study of the Rome Statute from the perspective of domestic and Sharia law.

Kuwait

September 2003

Kuwaiti legal advisers and the Director of the Department of International Relations at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice attended the Assembly of States Parties in September 2003.

Oman

September 2003

The Omani Attorney General and two other senior officials of the Ministry of Justice attended the Assembly of States Parties in September 2003, indicating Oman's high-level interest in the ICC. Officials said that Oman has been examining the Rome Statute for 4 years and that it is a matter of time before Oman ratifies the ICC.

NORTH AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST

Qatar

September 2003

The government participated as observers at the Assembly of States Parties in September 2003. The Qatari representative mentioned that the Cabinet has been studying the Rome Statute and monitoring developments in the ICC. The government is awaiting the definition of the crime of aggression before it considers ratification.

United Arab Emirates

September 2003

Ministry of Justice officials attended the Assembly of States Parties in September 2003. Government officials reiterated that a high-level national study group is currently examining the statute and how to modify the national laws in accordance with the crimes in the Rome Statute, prior to ratification. Reports indicate that legal complications have nearly been resolved. Greater political will is necessary for ratification. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also been closely examining the possibilities of ratification.

JOIN THE UNIVERSAL RATIFICATION CAMPAIGN IN MEXICO



You can participate in this campaign in the following ways:

1. Visit the Universal Ratification page of Amnesty International, where you can send letters to the President of the Chamber of Deputies, President of the Commission for Constitutional Issues, Coordinator of the PRI Party in the Chamber of Deputies and Coordinator of the PRD Party in the Chamber of Deputies:

In English: <http://web.amnesty.org/pages/icc-291003-action-eng>

In Spanish: <http://web.amnesty.org/pages/icc-291003-action-esl>

In French: <http://web.amnesty.org/pages/icc-291003-action-fra>

2. Modify a copy of the letter available above, and send it to the Mexican Embassy in your country. You can translate it into your own language.

3. Contact Ms. Adele Waugaman (ciccmedia@iccnw.org) at the CICC for a model press release which you can use to raise awareness about the Universal Ratification campaign in your country.

4. Contact Dr. Jose Antonio Guevara Bermudez, CICC Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean with cc to Monica Guzman (cicc14@iccnw.org) and Mariana Rodriguez (cicc5@iccnw.org) to inform them of any actions you take, or to discuss initiatives. You can also raise awareness of this campaign by sending this email to other organizations in your country.

5. You can also contact the Mexican Coalition for the ICC (Ms. Emma Ibarra) via email: emma@derechoshumanos.org.mx; or telephone: 56 59 67 97 ext. 227

As always, contact the Coalition for the ICC for further assistance or to share with us your activities in this important campaign.

We stand convinced that the International Criminal Court will, over time, play a central role in how the Security Council chooses to confront those who commit the gravest of crimes in societies afflicted by war, and are pleased to note that most Council members appear to share that opinion."

-- HRH Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations

STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE OF THE ICC

(92 ratifications and accessions (a) as of 14 November 2003, in chronological order)

Senegal	2 February 1999	Croatia	21 May 2001	Mongolia	11 April 2002
Trinidad & Tobago	6 April 1999	Costa Rica	7 June 2001	Niger	11 April 2002
San Marino	13 May 1999	Antigua & Barbuda	18 June 2001	Romania	11 April 2002
Italy	26 July 1999	Denmark	21 June 2001	Slovakia	11 April 2002
Fiji	29 November 1999	Sweden	28 June 2001	Greece	15 May 2002
Ghana	20 December 1999	Netherlands	17 July 2001	Uganda	14 June 2002
Norway	16 February 2000	Serbia & Montenegro	6 September 2001	Brazil	20 June 2002
Belize	5 April 2000	Nigeria	27 September 2001	Namibia	25 June 2002
Tajikistan	5 May 2000	Liechtenstein	2 October 2001	Bolivia	27 June 2002
Iceland	25 May 2000	Central African Rep.	3 October 2001	Uruguay	28 June 2002
Venezuela	7 June 2000	United Kingdom	4 October 2001	Gambia	28 June 2002
France	9 June 2000	Switzerland	12 October 2001	Latvia	28 June 2002
Belgium	28 June 2000	Peru	10 November 2001	Australia	1 July 2002
Canada	7 July 2000	Nauru	12 November 2001	Honduras	1 July 2002
Mali	16 August 2000	Poland	12 November 2001	Colombia	5 August 2002
Lesotho	6 September 2000	Hungary	30 November 2001	Tanzania	20 August 2002
New Zealand	7 September 2000	Slovenia	31 December 2001	East Timor	6 September 2002(a)
Botswana	8 September 2000	Benin	22 January 2002	Samoa	16 September 2002
Luxembourg	8 September 2000	Estonia	30 January 2002	Malawi	19 September 2002
Sierra Leone	15 September 2000	Portugal	5 February 2002	Djibouti	5 November 2002
Gabon	20 September 2000	Ecuador	5 February 2002	Republic of Korea	13 November 2002
Spain	24 October 2000	Mauritius	5 March 2002	Zambia	13 November 2002
South Africa	27 November 2000	Macedonia, FYR	6 March 2002	Malta	29 November 2002
Marshall Islands	7 December 2000	Cyprus	7 March 2002	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	
Germany	11 December 2000	Panama	21 March 2002		3 December 2002 (a)
Austria	28 December 2000	Bosnia & Herzegovina	11 April 2002	Barbados	10 December 2002
Finland	29 December 2000	Bulgaria	11 April 2002	Albania	31 January 2003
Argentina	8 February 2001	Cambodia	11 April 2002	Afghanistan	10 February 2003 (a)
Dominica	12 February 2001(a)	Dem. Rep. of Congo	11 April 2002	Lithuania	12 May 2003
Andorra	30 April 2001	Ireland	11 April 2002	Guinea	14 July 2003
Paraguay	14 May 2001	Jordan	11 April 2002	Georgia	5 September 2003



ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo with Deputy Prosecutor Serge Brammertz, at the swearing in ceremony. Credit: ICC-CPI/Wim Van Capellen

“The creation of the ICC represents for the international community a step comparable to the evolution of over ten centuries of national criminal justice systems... The Rome Statute entails that, when national states fail, the international community will protect the victims of atrocities. For this huge step forward, the world will always be indebted to those political leaders, determined civil servants from around the world and NGO representatives who created the ICC, including some of you sitting among us today.

...The commitment and wisdom of the Judges will not be enough. The work of the entire Court will need the strong support of national states: their political leaders, diplomats, police, prosecutors, and all their law-enforcement agencies. We also have to develop a global citizenship.”

Luis Moreno-Ocampo, *Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, during the Swearing In Ceremony of the Deputy Prosecutor*

UPCOMING ICC EVENTS

November 2003

- 22 October - 22 November **Public Hearing on the Regulations of the Court**, an online consultation process organized by the International Criminal Court.
For more information, visit:
http://www.icc-cpi.int/php/show.php?id=oph_introduction
To provide input on victim issues, visit:
http://www.icccpi.int/php/show.php?id=oph_victims
To share comments on defence issues, visit: <http://www.icc->
- 5 November **"Trials and Tribunals: New Paths to International Justice"**, organized by the Lillian Vernon Center at New York University, to include presentations by ICC Judge Navanethem Pillay.
New York, United States
For more information or to register, call: +1-212.992.9091, or visit:
<http://www.nyu.edu/vernon.center>
- 6-7 November **"International War Crimes Trials: Making A Difference?"**, a conference hosted by the University of Texas School of Law with the support of the Jehl Foundation.
Austin, Texas
For more information, visit: <http://www.utexas.edu/law/conferences/warcrimes/>
For questions, contact Suzanne Hassler at +1-512-232-1100.
- 10 November **From Rome to the Congo: Implications of the International Criminal Court**, a discussion hosted by the Georgetown University Law Center American Constitution Society.
Washington, DC, United States
For more information, contact +1-202-662-9519; or e-mail, georgetownacs@law.georgetown.edu
- 15 November **Workshop on the International Criminal Court**, organized by the Mexican Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CMCPI).
Mexico City, Mexico
To check the program of activities, visit
http://icc.igc.org/espanol/docong/taller_cmcpi.pdf
For further information, contact emma@derechoshumanos.org.mx
- 19 November **The New International Criminal Court: Representing Defendants, Victims and Witnesses**, a program sponsored by the International Criminal Bar, and hosted by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.
New York, United States
For more information, call +1-212-382-6663 or +1-212-382-6663 6662, or register online at: <http://www.abcny.org>
- 25 November **Seminar on the ICC**, organized by the European Law Students' Association Poland.
Warsaw, Poland
For more information, contact Michal Strzelecki at: michal.strzelecki@elsa.org.pl or visit: <http://www.elsa.org.pl>

- 27-28 November **"Ensuring Responsibility for International Crime within the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction: The Challenge for the ASEAN Criminal Justice Cooperation,"** a seminar organized by Thai Working Group on the Establishment of ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism, the Office of the Supreme Court of Thailand and The Law Society of Thailand.
Bangkok, Thailand
- 30 November - 11 December For more information, contact Ms. Evelyn Balais-Serrano at: ciccasia@iccnw.org
International Humanitarian Law - Protection of Civilian Population During Armed Conflicts, a course organized by the Romanian Red Cross Society and the European Law Students' Association- ELSA Bucharest, with support from Indaco Systems.
Bucharest, Romania
For more information, visit: <http://www.elsalawschool.unibuc.ro> or contact: Diana-Magdalena Crangasu or Lucian Vitelaru at: bucuresti@elsa.ro

December 2003

- TBD **Ibero-American Conference on the International Criminal Court (II Session)**, a two-day regional parliamentary conference organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA); hosted by the PGA Argentina National Group; sponsored by the European Commission/EU.
Buenos Aires, Argentina
For more information, contact Juan Kim at: juan.kim@pgaction.org
- 6-7 December 2003 **National Workshop on the ICC**, sponsored by ERA Consumer and other prospective organizations.
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
For more information, contact Ms. Evelyn Balais-Serrano at: ciccasia@iccnw.org
- 17-19 December 2003 **The Complementarity Regime of the ICC**, organized by the International Criminal Law Network, in collaboration with the Center for International Legal Cooperation, Justitie - Netherlands Forensic Institute, Vera Institute of Justice and the International Association of Prosecutors; with support from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
The Hague, The Netherlands
For more information, contact Ms. Helian Ophorst at h.ophorst@science-alliance.nl, email info@ICLN.net, or visit: <http://www.ICLN.net>

January 2004

- January - March 2004 **Short Course on International Criminal Justice**, offered by the University of Nottingham Human Rights Law Centre.
Nottingham, United Kingdom
For more information, contact Gail Evans, Human Rights Law Centre, School of Law, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, UK via email: gail.evans@nottingham.ac.uk or visit: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/law/hrlc/>
- 28-30 January **Asian Victims' Forum on the ICC**, sponsored by Forum-Asia and Asian Federation of Families of the Disappeared.
Bangkok, Thailand
For more information, contact Ms. Evelyn Balais-Serrano at: ciccasia@iccnw.org

February 2004

- 16-27 February **High Level Training Course in International Criminal Law**, organized by the ETHICS project, to be held at the European University Institute (EUI).
Florence, Italy
For further information and application forms, please visit the ETHICS project web-
- 26-29 February **"The Challenge of Conflict, International Law Responds"**, jointly hosted by The Flinders University of South Australia and the University of Adelaide.
Adelaide, South Australia
For more information concerning the submission of abstracts, visit <http://www.all-occasions.com.au/conferences/ilaw/>
For other information, contact Tina Dolgopol of Flinders University via telephone: (08) 8201 3880 or (08) 8201 3539; fax: (08) 8201 3630 or e-mail: Tina.Dolgopol@flinders.edu.au

March 2004

- 29-31 March 2004 **Meeting of the Committee on Budget and Finance of the Assembly of States Parties**
The Hague, The Netherlands
For more information, email cicc@iccnw.org or visit <http://icc-cpi.int>

August 2004

- 2-6 August 2004 **Meeting of the Committee on Budget and Finance of the Assembly of States Parties**
The Hague, The Netherlands
For more information, email cicc@iccnw.org or visit <http://icc-cpi.int>

September 2004

- 6-10 September 2004 **Third Session of the Assembly of States Parties**
The Hague, The Netherlands
For more information, email cicc@iccnw.org or visit <http://icc-cpi.int>



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www.iccnnow.org

*For a fair, effective and independent
International Criminal Court*

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) is a network of over two thousand civil society organizations in over 150 countries, supported through regional coordinators and liaisons based all over the world. The role of the NGO Coalition is to represent, facilitate and coordinate the work of its worldwide membership, while serving as the primary information resource on the ICC and a liaison between governments, International Criminal Court officials, international organizations, academics and civil society members.

The latest edition of the ICC Monitor is now available at: www.iccnnow.org.
To request Monitors in English, French or Spanish, please contact the
Coalition Secretariat.

Visit the FRENCH and SPANISH versions of the CICC website:
www.iccnnow.org/francais or www.iccnnow.org/espanol
Visitez notre site internet en français!
Visite el portal de la Coalicion de ONGs en español!

You are invited to subscribe to our distribution list by sending a blank e-mail to:
icc-info-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Please note our new email list in Spanish: noticias-cpi@yahoogroups.com

ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

On July 1, 2002, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) entered into force, triggering the jurisdiction of the first permanent international court capable of investigating and bringing to justice individuals who commit the most serious violations of international law, namely genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Unlike the International Court of Justice, whose jurisdiction is restricted to States, the ICC has the capacity to indict individuals.

The Rome Statute was adopted and opened for signature and ratification at the Rome Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries of 17 July 1998 (by a vote of 120 to 7, with 21 abstentions). During a historic ceremony on 11 April 2002, 10



The seat of the ICC in The Hague
Credit: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

states simultaneously deposited their instruments of ratification, crossing the threshold of the 60 ratifications necessary for entry into force of the Rome Statute.

The 18 Judges of the ICC were elected in February 2003, and the Court was formally inaugurated on 11 March 2003 in a solemn ceremony held in The Hague, The Netherlands. In April

2003, the Assembly of States Parties unanimously elected the Chief Prosecutor of the ICC. Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo, who was sworn into office on 16 June 2003. With the election of Mr. Bruno Cathala as Registrar of the Court, and the recent swearing in of the Deputy Prosecutor Mr. Serge Brammertz, all senior officials of the ICC are in place.

The ICC will be complementary to national jurisdictions, and will act only when national systems are unable or unwilling to genuinely carry out investigations or prosecutions of such crimes. The jurisdiction of the Court is not retroactive; it will only apply to those crimes that are committed after entry into force of the Statute. To date, 92 countries have ratified the Rome Statute.