

Recommendations¹ on the Discussion on the Permanent Premises of the International Criminal Court for the Fifth Session of the Assembly of States Parties

- Premises Team of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) -

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Regarding the permanent premises of the ICC, the Premises Team of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court *observes* that:

- The discussion on the permanent premises of the International Criminal Court has taken on **heightened urgency**, as the project of constructing purpose-built premises – generally seen as the best option – still has to start and is likely to take six to seven years: one or two years beyond the end of the rent-free period that the Host State has offered.
- The successful development of a project on permanent premises will require a **separate structure** that can make and implement decisions on a regular basis independently from the Court's daily work and the ASP's annual sessions, at least providing for:
 - The definition of the Court's requirements and financial framework by representatives from the ASP, the ICC and the CBF.
 - Advice and long-term support from representatives from the private sector and civil society as well as other high-profile participants from the international community.
 - The development and implementation of the project by architectural experts within framework set by the ASP and the Court.

The CICC Premises Team *recommends* the ASP:

- To decide to continue to develop the project on the purpose-built premises at the **Alexanderkazerne** site, given the relative advantages of the option and to take provisions to allow the project to be developed throughout 2007, including an architectural competition, until a separate governance structure is in place.
- When considering the development of a separate governance structure with respect to permanent premises, to give consideration to:
 - Having the States Parties, the CBF and the Court, represented in a **steering committee**, which is mandated to take decisions on behalf of the ASP regarding the development of the project on permanent premises, taking into consideration the Court's requirements and budgetary limitations. The committee should be able to meet monthly and regularly report back to the ASP, ensuring adequate and constant oversight of the project.
 - Allowing the private sector, civil society and others, represented in a high-profile **advisory council**, to provide advice and broad, long-term support to the steering committee on a regular basis regarding the ICC's permanent premises.
 - Creating a **project group** that will implement the project, within the framework set by the steering committee. The project group should be composed of architectural experts based in the vicinity of The Hague to allow the group to meet every day and be effective in its implementation.
 - Allocating **resources** to the ASP Secretariat to support the work of the steering committee and the project group.

¹ While the work of the Premises Team reflects the positions of those Coalition members most active on particular issues and this paper has been prepared in consultation with other Coalition teams, this paper cannot be construed to represent the views of all organizations/members of the CICC. Since the Rome Diplomatic Conference, Coalition members have organized themselves into teams, one to follow each working group or theme of the intergovernmental process. Coalition teams now follow issues addressed by the Assembly of States Parties or its subsidiary mechanisms and by the International Criminal Court. Teams provide a forum within which interested members discuss issues, follow developments, elaborate relevant research and positions in response to developments, and elaborate and implement advocacy strategies in relation to those positions. All Coalition members are welcome to join any teams and all Coalition members are regularly apprised of the work of the teams.