

***CICC Consultative Group Meeting with Moroccan Civil Society &  
Amb. Tiina Intelmann, President of the Assembly of States Parties to  
the International Criminal Court***

Rabat, 16 May 2012

Rabat, Morocco- As part of the official visit of Ambassador Tiina Intelmann, President of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court, to Morocco, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) in collaboration with Le Forum des Initiatives de Développement et Consolidation de la Primauté du Droit (FIDCOP) organized a “Civil Society Consultative Group Meeting on the role of the ICC in the consolidation of the Rule of Law and the fight against impunity in Morocco. The meeting was hosted by Mr. Hassan Maaouni, President of the FIDCOP.

With the convergence of over 50 civil society leaders, journalists, and academics, as well as International organizations that are active on international justice and the ICC (i.e.: PGA, Amnesty International), the meeting presented an unprecedented opportunity for an inter-active dialogue with President Intelmann, Dr. Rod Rastan, Legal Adviser from the ICC’s Office of the Prosecutor, and Leila Hanafi Middle East Regional Coordinator from the Coalition for the International Criminal Court.

President Intelmann commended Morocco for making clear its commitment to the primacy of law and good governance. She went on to note that recent amendments to the constitution and penal code underline Morocco’s dedication to the fight against impunity. Participants agreed that government action alone is generally not enough to end impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern. Complementary and mutually supportive actions by the media and civil society actors were recognized as important.

The following recommendations ensued from the discussions:

- **To establish partnerships with civil society experts** at all stages of national calls for ratification and legal reform processes;
- In light of Morocco’s upcoming Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council in May 2012, it would be key **to strengthen civil society dialogue with the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights** (Delegation Inter-Ministerielle aux Droits de l’Homme) as the Committee coordinates for reporting on Morocco’s obligations under international law conventions (CEDAW, ICCPR...) to the Human Rights Council. As Moroccan NGOs build their knowledge on ICC, ICC ratification could be positioned within the NGOs reporting mechanism, noting that knowledge of the ICC and its structure and system by CSOs is nascent in Morocco;
- **To revive the Morocco Coalition for the ICC to become active at the national stage;**

- **To continue the dialogue with key national authorities** involved in the ICC process and ensure regular visits and meetings between representatives of the ICC and civil society;
- **To facilitate the participation of representatives of civil society from Morocco** to attend meetings of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court;
- **To conduct studies on the International Criminal Court** to reflect on the ICC as an institution, its jurisprudence, and take stock of available scholarship on ICC and Morocco;
- **The ICC must communicate its mission more effectively to the public in Morocco** if it is to garner acceptance of its capacity to act as a guardian of international criminal law. The role of civil society is critical in this effort to promote awareness of the Court, increase media coverage, and dispel allegations of bias and politicization, through a two-fold approach:
  - **To define a train-the-trainers (TOT) module on ICC** in conjunction with civil society stakeholders to enhance perception and knowledge about ICC;
  - **To raise media awareness about ICC's relevance to Morocco** through cooperating with media outlets to report and publish articles on the ICC in an objective, well-informed, manner;
- **To organize mutli-stakehoder national workshops on the ICC** with key stakeholders (civil society, government, media, parliament, academics, the press...) to map out challenges in increasing acceptance to ICC and Rome Statue and promote the cross-fertilization of experiences to overcome these obstacles.

