



Thirty minutes ago, the Judges of Pre-Trial Chamber I filed with the Registry an arrest warrant against Omar Hassan Ahmad al Bashir on charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes. The warrant does not include the charges of genocide requested by the Prosecutor.

The Judges issued the arrest warrant, pursuant to the Rome Statute, in order to ensure that Omar al Bashir appears at his trial, does not obstruct or endanger the investigation and in order to prevent him from continuing with the commission of crimes he is alleged to have committed.

The Judges have asked the Registry to prepare a request for co-operation seeking the arrest and surrender of Omar al Bashir, and transmit this to:

- (a) Sudan
- (b) State Parties to the Rome Statute
- (c) Security Council Members not party to the Rome Statute
- (d) Any other state as the Registrar deems necessary.

The Judges have also ruled that if the circumstances so require, a provisional arrest warrant may be served on any state.

I must recall that the responsibility to arrest and surrender Omar al Bashir is on States at this point. Only States have the power and jurisdiction to arrest and surrender suspects to the ICC, in accordance with their obligations under the Rome Statute, Security Council resolution 1593 and applicable international law.

The Registry will immediately implement the request of the Judges and will notify the request for co-operation in the arrest and surrender of Omar al Bashir on the States that I have just indicated.

The ICC relies on the co-operation of States to end impunity for the perpetrators of grave crimes that threaten peace, security and the well being of the world, as stated in the preamble of the Rome Statute. States now have to fulfil the obligations they undertook when entering into the Rome Statute, and when the Security Council of the United Nations, under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, referred the matter to Court.