



Media Advisory – 25 January 2006

International Criminal Court Set to Elect New Judges

Six Judges to be Elected during Resumed Session of Assembly of ICC States Parties on 24-25 January

WHAT: On 26-27 January 2006, during a resumed meeting of the Fourth Session of the Assembly of ICC States Parties (ASP), International Criminal Court (ICC) member states will elect six new judges to the bench of the ICC. The first election of ICC judges took place in February 2003 at the First Session of the ASP. At that time, the Court's first eighteen judges were elected. In order to ensure for the continuity of the Court's work, lots were drawn to decide terms of office with six judges serving for nine years; six judges serving for six years; and six judges serving for three years. This year's election, therefore, will elect six new judges for a term of nine years in order to maintain the continuity process.

WHO: A total of ten candidates are running for election. Six of the candidates are currently sitting judges at the Court: Hans-Peter Kaul (**Germany**); Erkki Kourula (**Finland**); Akua Kuenyehia (**Ghana**); Tuiloma Neroni Slade (**Samoa**); Sang-hyun Song (**Republic of Korea**); and Anita Ušacka (**Latvia**). The four other candidates are: Károly Bard (**Hungary**); Haridiata Dakouré (**Burkina Faso**); Cheikh Tidiane Thiam (**Senegal**); and Ekaterina Trenafilova (**Bulgaria**). The nominees' CVs and statements are listed on the ASP's website at:

www.icc-cpi.int/asp/elections/2006_JudgesAlpha.html

HOW: Each of the ten candidates must fulfill a number of categories provided for in the ICC treaty, the Rome Statute. These categories include: established competence in criminal law and procedure versus established competence in relevant areas of international law; fair representation of female and male judges; equitable geographical representation; and balanced representation of the principal legal systems of the world. To ensure that these provisions are actually implemented in the election, the ASP has created an election procedure that is based on a system of minimum voting requirements. In light of the other twelve current ICC judges who remain in their positions, this means that in the current election, States Parties will have to vote for *at least*:

- One candidate with established competence in criminal law
- One candidate with established competence in relevant areas of international law
- One candidate from the group of African States
- One candidate from the group of Asian States
- Two candidates from the group of Eastern European States
- One woman

WHERE: Although the ICC is an independent body and not an organ of the United Nations, the resumed session of the ASP will be taking place at UN Headquarters in New York. The earlier meeting of the ASP, which took place from 28 November-3 December 2005, was convened in The Hague where the Court is situated.

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Notes for Editors:

1. The International Criminal Court is the world's first permanent global criminal court. It is *not* an organ of the UN but rather an independent body established in The Hague, the Netherlands on 1 July 2002 when the ICC treaty came into force. The ICC does not have jurisdiction over crimes prior to that date
2. The Court is currently investigating cases in Darfur, Sudan; the Democratic Republic of Congo; and Uganda. The ICC Prosecutor's office is also analyzing eight situations on four continents including the Central African Republic and Cote d'Ivoire. The ICC unsealed its first arrest warrants for five top leaders of the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) on 13 October 2005.
3. The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) is *not* an organ of the ICC but rather an independent NGO network made up of more than 2,000 civil society organizations working to promote a fair, effective and independent ICC. The CICC as a whole does not take a position on the election of ICC judges or any other officials and staff of the Court. However, individual member organizations of the CICC may do so, following their own mandates.