



The Registry



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The Registry is one of the four organs of the International Criminal Court and it is responsible for the non-judicial aspects of the administration and the servicing of the Court. All the tasks performed by the Registry are in clear support of the Court's strategic goals.

The work of the Registry is characterised by the fact that it must remain a neutral organ at all times. The Registry is conscious that the quality, efficiency, transparency and timeliness of its activities impact on the achievement of the overall mission of the Court. The Registry is guided by its statutory framework and by international standards and is forward-looking, particularly when it comes to information and communication technology.

Quality of justice

The aim of the services provided by the Registry is ultimately the conduct of fair, effective and expeditious public proceedings.

The Registry's Division of Victims and Counsel enables suspects and accused persons to be represented by a defence counsel and, in keeping with the principle of equality of arms, supports defence counsels in the discharge of their mandates. The Division also assists victims with their participation in the judicial proceedings and with applications for reparations.

The Division of Court Services underpins the investigations and trials through such fundamental functions as the protection of witnesses and running of the Detention Centre. This Division also provides translation and interpretation services for all hearings and is responsible for records, filings, notifications and is entrusted with the court management.

The work of the Public Information and Documentation Section (PIDS) is instrumental to working towards the quality of justice insofar as it ensures that trials are indeed made public and accessible, in particular to those communities affected by the commission of crimes under the Court's jurisdiction.

The Security and Safety Section allows investigations and trials to take place by providing security and safety to all participants to the extent possible.

A well-recognised and adequately supported institution

The Registry is in regular contact with the various groups of stakeholders of the Court in such areas as public information, outreach and external relations.

External relations activities are geared towards securing the support of States and international organisations in such matters as witness protection, enforcement of sentences, information exchange, field logistics and security.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the legal profession and academia are other key players in the system of international criminal law with which the Registry is engaged. Generally speaking, contact with stakeholders is established and managed by the Immediate Office of the Registrar.

The Legal Advisory Services Section (LASS) and PIDS also play important roles in relations with stakeholders. Likewise such sections as the Victims Participation and Reparations Section (VPRS), the Victims and Witnesses Unit (VWU) and even the Detention Section can effectively discharge their mandates only through

exchanges and interaction with these external actors. Outreach is central to achieving the Court's goal of becoming a well-recognised and supported institution. The Registry is responsible for developing and implementing the outreach programme in line with the Court's detailed Strategic Plan on outreach. The Court must seek to bridge the distance between itself and the affected communities by establishing an effective system of two-way communication. This shall enable a better understanding of their concerns and expectations and shall serve to increase their confidence in international criminal justice.

A model for public administration

The various operational sections, such as the Office of the Controller, the Human Resources Section, the Budget and Finance Section, and the Security and Safety Section,

together with the Legal Advisory Services Section, all play a fundamental role in ensuring the establishment of an adequate but lean administrative framework for the Court within which they provide their services.

The Common Administrative Services Division provides proper information technology, compiles sound and accurate budget proposals, ensures accurate accounting, procures goods, provides logistics, operates field offices and maintains the premises of the Court, among other functions, which all form part of creating an efficient, flexible and accountable organisation.

Critical to these efforts are the functions of the Human Resources Section, which provides substantive input in shaping and implementing the goals related to the organisation's main asset, namely its staff.



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About the Registrar

The Registry is headed by the Registrar who is the principal administrative officer of the Court, elected by secret ballot by an absolute majority of judges meeting in plenary session. Ms Silvana Arbia of Italy was elected on 28 February 2008 as the new Registrar for a five-year term. She succeeds Mr Bruno Cathala. Ms Arbia will exercise her functions under the authority of the President.

Ms Arbia has extensive experience in international law, criminal law, and the judicial management aspects of international criminal law. Prior to joining the ICC, she was the Chief of Prosecutions at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), before which she was a Senior Trial Attorney and Acting Chief of Prosecutions in the Office of the Prosecutor, and led the prosecution of important cases before the ICTR.

Furthermore, Ms Arbia participated in the drafting of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as a member of Italian delegation at the 1998 Diplomatic Conference in Rome.

Ms Arbia holds a Laurea in Law from Padova University, Italy, and was a professional judge in Italy. She has published several essays and books on human rights and children's rights.

