Consolidating Kampala:

Incorporating the Review Conference Recommendations concerning Victims and Affected Communities into the ICC’s Strategies

VRWG Paper prepared for the 9th Session of the Assembly of States Parties Meeting in New York, 6-10 December 2010

The Victims’ Rights Working Group (VRWG) is a network of national and international civil society groups and experts created in 1997 under the auspices of the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court. Its membership includes international as well as local NGOs and experts from a wide array of countries, in particular those affected by ICC investigations and prosecutions.

The VRWG provides these recommendations to the 9th Assembly of State Parties (ASP), taking place in New York, from 6 to 10 December 2010, in the spirit of ensuring that the extensive ‘stocktaking’ undertaken at the ICC Review Conference in Kampala on the issue impact on victims and affected communities are translated into concrete measures and policies by the ICC. The VRWG welcomes the appointment of Mia Aro-Sanchez of Finland and Elena Bornand, now replaced by Rodrigo Waghorn of Chile as facilitators for the follow-up to the Review Conference for this topic. This will be a means of ensuring that the outcomes of the stocktaking exercise are now used as a basis for facilitating a process of strengthening and implementing policies by the Court. The Final Report of the Stocktaking on this topic, prepared by the focal points and submitted to the ASP usefully compiles the outcomes, recommendations and also identifies concrete recommendations on the way forward [hereinafter the ‘Final Report’].

It is the view of the VRWG that an effective way to incorporate the results of the stocktaking process into the Court’s plans and policies would be to include specific, measurable and time-
bound targets\(^2\) into an updated version of the ICC’s *Strategy in Relation to Victims*\(^3\) in order to render it operational.\(^4\) This would facilitate implementation of targets as well as enable monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy by stakeholders such as victims, civil society and States. This recommendation follows a detailed paper presented to the Court in 2007, providing numerous examples of measurable strategic results with corresponding indicators and means of verification in the form of a log frame.\(^5\) The VRWG notes in this regard the inclusion of similar language in the Resolution on the impact of the Rome Statute System on Victims and affected communities (hereinafter ‘Resolution on victims and affected communities’) adopted by State Parties at the Review Conference,\(^6\) which “encourages the court to optimize [its] strategic planning process, […] in order to improve the way in which it addresses the concerns of victims and affected communities.”

The Victims’ Rights Working Group played a significant role in shaping the stocktaking discussions on the impact of the ICC on victims and affected communities at the ICC Review Conference in Kampala from 31 May to 6 June 2010. It worked alongside and supported the efforts of the focal points from Finland and Chile, appointed to facilitate stocktaking on this topic. Amongst numerous side events organised by civil society groups, the VRWG co-organised with the CICC the *Civil Society Takes Stock* event on 1 June 2010, the day before the Conference’s formal session on this topic. A paper identifying Outcome Recommendations (linked) for the attention of States Parties was issued by the group as a result of the stocktaking exercise and has been included verbatim in the Final Report.\(^7\) Indeed, as the Final Report underlines, “it is important that the required changes and improvements get the same level of dedication as their identification […]This] will ultimately define the success or failure of the stocktaking exercise.”\(^8\) The following recommendations are provided to the ASP as a means of capitalising on the stocktaking exercise with regard to the Court’s mandate in relation to victims.

The VRWG welcomes the opportunity to share these recommendations with States Parties in view of discussions regarding the necessary action required to follow up the Review Conference to take place at the 9th ASP scheduled for 6-10 December 2010.

**ASP Omnibus Resolution**

The VRWG welcomes the inclusion of language requesting the Court to review its Strategy in Relation to Victims within the omnibus resolution. The Court’s strategy on victims should incorporate and respond to the recommendations of the panel contained in the focal points report. The VRWG would discourage the resolution taking a cost/benefit approach to the Kampala recommendations, as these are quite generic in nature and need to be translated into concrete plans within the context of a review of the strategic plan. It would seem that a cost/benefit approach would be unworkable at present. The strategy in relation to victims as it now stands lacks specificity in that there are no time frames or specific targeted actions, and therefore cannot be monitored, evaluated or even costed. Thus, it is recommended that the Kampala recommendations inform a review of the strategy with the objective of making it operational. The recommendations need not imply additional costs, but instead an identification of specific,

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\(^2\) It is habitual for funding requirements to include ‘SMART’ objectives. Objectives should be “Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound. See for instance, [http://www.projectsmart.co.uk/10-steps-to-setting-smart-objectives.html](http://www.projectsmart.co.uk/10-steps-to-setting-smart-objectives.html).


\(^4\) This is also pointed out in the focal points recommendations on the way forward. ‘Final Report’, p. 12, para. 46 “the strategy on victims should include measurable and time bound objectives”.


\(^8\) Final Report, p. 11, para. 42.
time-bound actions, which may or may not already be underway. Where recommendations are identified as cost drivers over and above existing plans and resources, these could be presented to the next session of the ASP/CBF.

The VRWG emphasises that operationalising the recommendations made during the stocktaking exercise would not per se generate additional expenses. Most areas are already part of the Court’s work and are being adapted in any case as it reacts and learns through experience. However, introducing specific and measurable targets will allow for advance planning in a proactive rather than reactive way, which is now appropriate given the stocktaking exercise. It is notable that the Court has also organised internal seminars on victims’ issues in November 2010, which should further reinforce internal planning and efficiencies.

Outreach plays a central role in ensuring that the Court’s impact is maximised and that victims’ rights become a reality. Thus, the VRWG emphasises the importance that the omnibus resolution demonstrate a strong expression of support for outreach and the corresponding importance of field offices, which are of vital importance in achieving progress in each of the areas of the Court’s activities discussed below.

**Specific, measurable and time-bound strategies**

The ICC’s *Strategy in Relation to Victims* provides excellent policy orientation on key areas that relate to the Court’s operations in relation to victims. However, in order to operationalise the strategy and enable monitoring and evaluation of progress in achieving the strategic goals and objectives, it is necessary to first identify a specific time period for the Strategy. For instance, the Prosecutorial Strategy is issued for the period 2009-12, with specific aims to be achieved within this period. The *Strategy in Relation to Victims* needs to be defined within specific time periods in the same manner. A three year time period, as chosen by the Prosecutor’s office for its Strategy appears to be a suitable time frame. Alternatively, it is possible to identify time periods for different objectives or groups of objectives.

In addition, each of the six different “objectives” within the Court’s *Strategy in Relation to Victims* must incorporate specific and measurable aims and targets. Indeed, the Strategy document itself notes that:

“In order to ensure the success of the Strategy, each organ and body has committed to setting out:

- the actions they are taking, and plan to take, to ensure that the principles of the Strategy are met;
- the steps they are taking to inform victims of the standards they can expect;
- the methods by which implementation and progress of the Strategy will be monitored and evaluated, including through measurable objectives and indicators and seeking feedback.”

A complete Strategy should necessarily include more details on the specific time frames, the concrete actions planned and relevant methodology.

In addition to monitoring and evaluating performance in the specific areas of the Strategy, consideration could be given to developing indicators to assess the overall impact of the ICC on affected communities. This could help to capture the need for improvements in areas which span a range of court activities, for example, support to intermediaries (as also discussed below), the incorporation of positive complementarity initiatives into the Court’s work with an eye on the ICC’s legacy in situation countries, the continued enhancement of the Court’s field presence and the role of field-based staff in policymaking. Optimization of the Court’s field presence was a key recommendation during discussions at the Review Conference on improving its impact.

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10 This was also recommended as a suggested way forward in the Final Report, p. 12, para. 46.
While much of the focus in this paper concerns the ICC’s *Strategy in Relation to Victims*, the Kampala Recommendations should be mainstreamed in all of the Court’s strategies including the Overall Strategic Planning document as well as the Prosecutorial Strategy 2009-12. While the VRWG welcomes the policy paper on victims’ participation issued by the Office of the Prosecutor in April 2010,11 the Office’s approach identified in the policy paper should also be reflected in the Prosecutorial Strategy; specific goals and objectives should be identified. This would ensure that the policy of the Office in relation to victims is fully operationalised, taking on board the Kampala recommendations.

**Recommendations in Key Areas:**

1. **Outreach**

The Victims’ Strategy provides very promising descriptions and features regarding its communications. Objective 1 of the Strategy provides that:

“[The Court should] ensure that [its] role […] and its judicial activities are clearly communicated to all victims of a situation or case potentially falling within the jurisdiction of the Court, including their right to petition the Court (i.e. the right to give information to the Prosecutor to form the basis of a *proprio motu* investigation), to participate in proceedings at the Court or to seek reparation.”

However, this objective needs to be broken down into specific, measurable and time-bound activities. For instance, the VRWG suggests that targets should be identified for the number of persons to be reached per year by region (eg 2 outreach events per year for each of Uganda’s 14 affected northern districts. Each meeting to reach 50-100 people). In particular, specific targets for outreach activities focused on engaging women and girl participants need to be enumerated, as well as activities aimed at children of both genders.

Discussions during the Review Conference, as well as the recommendations in the Final Report highlight the importance of outreach and the achievements made over the last few years. The Final Report provides that “there is still room for improvement” despite the fact that outreach activities at the ICC already represent a “major generational, substantive and technological step forward from earlier international criminal tribunals.”12 The VRWG recommended that States need to support the Court by increasing its outreach capacity, especially with gender-specific programmes. In discussions, it was also mentioned that more efforts (and further financial resources) need to be deployed on this front. In particular, it was highlighted that victims living in remote areas are not, or are less, targeted by outreach activities. It was also pointed out that concerns among victims and affected populations do not necessarily follow the pace of judicial proceedings; for example, in Uganda, victims and affected populations have great information needs despite the non-execution of arrest warrants.

Additionally, it was pointed out that outreach activities should include information on reparations and the mandate and activities of the Trust Fund for Victims. In the Resolution on victims and affected communities adopted at the Review Conference, States already underlined the need “to encourage further efforts to ensure that victims and affected communities have access to accurate information about the Court, its mandate and activities, as well as about victims’ rights under the […] Statute, including their right to participate in judicial proceedings and claim for reparations.”13 The Victims’ Strategy should take these and other recommendations into consideration.

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12 Final Report, p. 12, para. 47.
The VRWG is aware that a specific Outreach Strategy has been prepared by the Court. Consideration should be given to continued updating of that Outreach Strategy and to country-specific strategies also in order to take into account the Review Conference recommendations. The Victims' Strategy should clearly indicate which specific activities are planned and which targets are set to reach out to victims, i.e. for the purpose of informing them of their rights.

Continued efforts from the Court to ensure a robust field presence with well-resourced and well-staffed field offices are a crucial factor to facilitating efficient outreach and communications on the ground. In this respect, the VRWG strongly supports the strengthening of a two-way dialogue between the Court and victims and affected communities, as recommended during the High Level Panel on the topic at the Review Conference.¹⁴

Once the ICC's Strategy in Relation to Victims has been quantified and rendered operational through assigning specific targets it will be possible to evaluate these targets against the Kampala recommendations. From this starting point it will be possible to assess how much is being done, and where further targets and/or additional resources may be needed.

2. Investigation and Prosecution

Overall, the VRWG considers that for the Court to have the broadest possible relevance for victims and affected communities, investigations and prosecutions need to be representative of the range of criminality registered in a given conflict, as well as bringing those accused of crimes to justice. The Prosecutorial Strategy states that “incidents [selected for investigation] provide a sample that is reflective of the gravest incidents and the main types of victimisation.”¹⁵ The VRWG has noted in the past that some of the cases selected for prosecution fail to take into consideration some of the gravest crimes and incidents allegedly perpetrated by the relevant group or militia or have not targeted other individuals most responsible for these crimes. The VRWG recommends that indicators be developed to ensure that due attention be given to this matter in the future when selecting charges and incidents. In order to determine which individuals should be subject to prosecution, the OTP may need to adapt to a broader, more comprehensive investigative strategy, including more long-term presence of investigators in the field. Similarly, in order to provide justice for victims and avoid perceptions of bias, it is recommended that all parties to the conflict who have committed serious crimes within ICC jurisdiction be investigated and, where there is sufficient evidence, be subject to prosecution.

A key recommendation made to States at the Review Conference was the need to ensure effective investigation and prosecution of gender-based crimes and to avoid perceptions of bias. The VRWG recommends that gender specific performance indicators be developed to ensure that gender-based crimes form part of all ICC investigations and, where sufficient admissible evidence exists, prosecutions. Given the widespread use of rape as a weapon of war, we know that gender-based violence is committed on a massive scale in many situations of conflict and widespread violence where the ICC may have jurisdiction. While there are clear challenges to obtaining evidence for these crimes as well as for prosecuting charges of gender-based violence, clear performance indicators could help the Office of the Prosecutor identify how best to overcome these challenges so that it includes gender-related charges in every relevant case. There is also a need for the ICC to focus on and mainstream the investigation of crimes against children, and to also set performance indicators for such crimes where relevant. The VRWG welcomes the focus on investigating and prosecuting the crime of conscription, enlistment or use, but considers it important to keep a focus on other types of crimes against children, in order to reflect more accurately children’s experiences. Specific actions and plans to attain those targets should also be spelled out.

In cases where an investigation does not lead to prosecutions, the OTP should provide explanations on its decision not to prosecute to avoid perception of bias. Without prejudice to the fact that investigations are not triggered by individual complaints, victims should be informed.

without undue delay where it is clear that their “case” will not be furthered by the Office of the Prosecutor. In practice, the Office of the Prosecutor has declined to issue ‘decisions not to prosecute’ in accordance with the Statute, leaving victims wondering whether there will ever be an investigation for mass violence in their area. Victims need to have clarity as to whether the OTP is still considering investigating and prosecuting the harm they have suffered.

3. Protection and assistance

The Victims’ Strategy sets as its second and third objectives:

“To enable victims to interact with the Court without suffering further harm as a result of this interaction, including by providing protective measures and security arrangements at all stages”, and to

“Provide support and assistance to victims in order to safeguard their psychological and physical integrity and well-being, ensure respect for their dignity and privacy, and prevent them from suffering further harm as a result of their interaction with the Court.”

The justice process could thus be reparative. The VRWG notes that the protection of victims and witnesses on the ground remains in need of improvement. For instance, the time frame for responding to a request for a risk assessment could be determined and monitored so that progress can be evaluated. Victims and witnesses who are in-country and who may experience anxiety and fears in relation to their collaboration with organs of the Court need to be contacted regularly and sufficiently often by the Court. Clear parameters for such contacts could be included in the strategy so that they can be monitored and evaluated. Indicators with respect of especially vulnerable victims such as women, victims of gender-based crimes, and children should be identified to ensure their protection needs are met in a timely and respectful manner.

The Court’s Strategy in relation to Victims presents very laudable objectives concerning psychosocial protection. For instance, it is stated that training in “victim awareness will be provided to all staff in contact with victims to ensure high standards, and efforts will be made to pass on good practices to legal representatives, intermediaries and others interacting with victims in relation to Court proceedings.” Targets should be provided for achieving this objective, specifying which categories of staff are to be trained by date. Furthermore, the issues to be covered in the training should be identified. For instance, training regarding trauma, and in particular trauma relating to gender-based violence and children, should be key elements to be included. In addition, while training for all staff is very important, it does not substitute having staff with specific expertise in dealing with female and child victims.

The Victims Strategy highlights as key features “identifying victims’ needs, including identifying those especially vulnerable, and facilitating access to appropriate services” as well as providing information to victims about support available”. The VRWG invites States to play an active role in identifying relevant national support mechanisms which could complement the Court’s efforts and to share best practices with the relevant organs of the Court, so that victims’ experiences with the justice process of the Court will be reparative.

The VRWG also encourages States to support the Court’s efforts with regards to developing “intermediate” protection measures adapted to the situation of victim-applicants and participating victims. Such measures should go beyond merely sharing good practices with the victims and/intermediaries in order to prevent or reduce risks, though sharing best practice for prevention should be continued. Intermediate measures include a range of measures that may assist persons at risk, but are short of relocation through the protection programme. The VRWG calls on States and relevant stakeholders to increase their efforts in sharing best practices with regards to protection, as suggested by the Final Report.16

In relation to protection, it is critical that the Court develop and adopt strategies to protect intermediaries, on whose work on the ground the Court depends. This should be part of the wider policy on intermediaries, touching also upon issues such as reimbursement of expenses and compensation, confidentiality rules, code of ethics, and training, among others. These once again need to include measurable targets, (e.g. number of days to respond to a request for risk assessment; number and length of training per intermediary; number of weeks for a training to be organised following issuance of an arrest warrant, etc.) so that progress can be monitored and evaluated, for the benefit of both stakeholders and the Court. The VRWG welcomes the opportunity provided to civil society to address the Court’s Draft Paper on Intermediaries at the bi-annual ICC-NGO meetings in mid October, but notes that consultations were not sufficiently held with intermediaries themselves and that further progress on protection is required before the Draft can be finalised.

4. Victim Participation

The Victims’ Strategy’s fourth objective seeks to ensure that:

“Victims are able to fully exercise their right to participate in ICC proceedings, in a manner that is sensitive to their rights and interests and consistent with the rights of the Defence and the need to ensure a fair trial.”

The Strategy document further indicates that “victims’ participation is a statutory right, not a privilege” and goes on to state that “[i]f the rights of victims are to be effective, victims must first be aware of their right to participate so that they can take informed decisions about whether and how to exercise it, and must be assisted to apply to participate if they wish to do so.” In order to operationalise this statement, the VRWG recommends that the Court identify indicators on victim participation in the aggregate. These should provide a way of monitoring a range of Court activities, from the effectiveness of outreach, training of intermediaries, and availability of protective measures and ensuring victims’ right to an informed choice regarding participation or claiming reparation as well as timely processing of forms. Strengthening the Court’s field presence would also enhance its ability to achieve progress in each of these areas.

As well, in relation to its objective on participation, the Court’s Strategy in relation to Victims specifies that “[s]pecific strategies will be developed in relation to vulnerable or marginalised victims.” This provision is welcomed, and the VRWG looks forward to seeing activities and indicators developed to put it into effect. In that respect, the VRWG urges the Court, to take into account the cultural traditions and sensitivities and the physical and social needs of victims and witnesses particularly when they are required to be in The Hague or outside their country of origin to take part in Court proceedings.

In order to meet the overall case targets, it is suggested that other targets be identified to ensure that applications to participate are processed by the Registry within a given time frame for instance. Eventually if Chambers were to deem it appropriate, internal time frames could be established for parties’ observations as well as decisions on applications. The VRWG commends the approach taken in the recent decision on Victim Participation in relation to the Kenya Situation, which provides that the Registry shall carry out the assessment on whether applications received are complete, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the application.17

The VRWG fully supports the Final Report’s recommendation that the Court should ensure that “mechanisms for participation in judicial proceedings are as accessible as possible, avoiding unnecessary complexities or documents that are impossible to obtain.”18 Plans should also be made to measure the effectiveness of victim participation (valuable involvement of victims in proceedings, including through personal participation; assessment of the psycho-social impact on victims following their participation; effectiveness of legal representation; etc).

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18 Final Report, p. 12, para. 45.
The VRWG welcomes the introduction of a new, shorter, combined form for participation and reparation. However, recent jurisprudence of the Court states that unless victims expressly indicate their wish to “participate in proceedings”, their application will be treated as presented merely for the purposes of reparations. This creates an urgent need for outreach to integrate both participation and reparation from the outset, so that victims can make an informed decision on how they wish to exercise their rights.

In situ proceedings were frequently raised during the stocktaking in Kampala as an important way to bridge the gap between The Hague and the affected communities in the situation countries. The VRWG supports the Court’s continuing effort to look for opportunities to undertake in-situ proceedings and developing plans to take advantage of such opportunities. It is suggested that with simple targets per case, difficulties in achieving in situ hearings can be monitored, and creative solutions found in order to achieve expected results while maintaining safety and safeguarding the rights of the accused. States should endeavour to assist the Court in identifying viable options and providing necessary safeguards for in situ hearings to take place.

5. Reparations & Assistance from the Trust Fund for Victims

Objective 5 of the Victims’ Strategy provides that the Court should:

“Ensure that as many victims as possible are able to exercise their rights as regards reparation and to benefit from assistance.”

An area that was raised with concern during the Civil Society Takes Stock meeting on 1 June 2010 in Kampala was the importance of outreach activities in relation to reparations. In order to manage expectations, it is critical that basic facts about the Court’s jurisdiction and mandate be accurately and repeatedly clarified to affected populations. For instance, the start date of the Court’s jurisdiction is an issue that is very difficult for victims and affected communities to understand or accept, thus requiring frequent reiteration. The dual mandate of the Trust Fund for Victims as well as the specificity of the Prosecutor’s cases which are likely to limit judicial reparations, also need to be explained.

With regards to the Trust Fund’s assistance mandate, a number of principles have been identified in the Court’s Strategy document such as “[a]ssisting the victims to assist themselves”, or “mobilising victims with the specific focus on the most vulnerable” and “working with the communities, insisting on a mixed participation of the families and communities alongside victims in community rehabilitation efforts.” These are areas where indicators may already be in existence. Integrating such monitoring and evaluation tools into the Court-wide Strategy would ensure that lessons can continue to be learned and shared with stakeholders.

States pledged some 377.000 EUR for the Trust Fund for Victims during the Review Conference in Kampala. This was a welcome contribution. But with a reparation phase potentially starting next year and the continued need for assistance projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Central African Republic and Kenya, the Trust Fund Secretariat has to develop detailed fundraising strategies as a matter of urgency. As highlighted by the Final Report, while it has been “encouraging to observe in the findings [of the stocktaking exercise] the positive impact that the TFW has been able to create amongst victims, [...] the minimal resources it has collected [...] came nowhere near meeting the needs of the potential beneficiaries.” In this regard, the VRWG continues to encourage all State Parties to contribute to the Trust Fund recalling that this was also called upon by States in the Resolution on victims and affected communities adopted at the Review Conference.

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20 Final Report, p. 13, paras. 54-55.
6. Legal Representation

The final objective of the Victims’ Strategy in need of operationalisation provides that the Court should “ensure that victims obtain high-quality legal representation before the Court.”

In this regard, there are a number of aspects of the Court’s Strategy in relation to Victims which could be elaborated further. The different factors to take into consideration for the appointment of a common legal representative while avoiding conflict of interests could be spelled out. So should the specific activities put in place to ensure that all victims who participate in proceedings have access of a lawyer of their choice (within the limits of common legal representation) and benefit from legal aid where necessary. Also, the Court could elaborate on the specific measures taken to ensure that there are mechanisms in place for lawyers to be in regular contact with their clients. The VRWG wishes to stress that States Parties have a crucial role to play in ensuring that their national lawyers are trained on ICC-related legal matters, in particular in how to represent victims before the Court.

The VRWG thus recommends:

1. That States adopt the following language in the Omnibus Resolution:

   The Assembly...

   Recalls the resolution adopted by the Review Conference entitled “The impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and affected communities”,22 welcomes the final report of the focal points (Chile and Finland) regarding the stocktaking exercise,23 requests the Court to review its strategy in relation to victims24 taking into consideration / so that it incorporates and responds to the recommendations of the panel contained in the final report,25 to consider creative ways to implement the recommendations within existing resources and to evaluate any further cost implications, and to report on the progress to the Assembly at its tenth session, encourages States and civil society to take action in implementing the resolution and to consider carrying forward the recommendations in the final report, notes that, in light of the Court’s forecast, the first reparations order could be issued in the course of 2011, underlines the usefulness of a timely and informative dialogue between the States Parties and the Court on issues of common interest and requests the Bureau to report on the developments in the victim-related issues to the Assembly at its tenth session.

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22 Ibid.
25 Paragraph 14 (c ) of the final report reads as follows:

“ (c ) The way forward
(i) The Court needs to find creative ways to strengthen its two-way dialogue with victims and affected communities.
(ii) The Court’s outreach activities need to be further optimized and adapted to the needs of victims.
(iii) A specific policy needs to be developed for addressing the needs of women and children.
(iv) More protective measures are needed for victims and witnesses.
(v) A comprehensive policy towards intermediaries should be finalized by the Court and implemented.
(vi) Field operations should be reinforced and linked to strategic planning and the allocation of resources.
(vii) The Trust Fund should be congratulated for conducting a monitoring and evaluation programme of its current project and encouraged, where prudent, to increase its visibility.

Finally, the Court and its staff cannot walk this road alone. They need the stewards of the Court—the State Parties—to continue their commitment, support and leadership.”
2. Pursuant to implementing the principle of complementarity as applied to victims-related issues, that States assist the Court with respect to:

- **Outreach**: fully supporting the Court’s need to increase its outreach capacity, with specific gender-specific programmes;

- **Field Offices**: recognising the importance of the ICC’s field presence and field offices;

- **In Situ proceedings**: identifying viable options for *in situ* proceedings, providing necessary safeguards for hearings to take place either in-country or in neighbouring countries;

- **Protection**: increasing their efforts in sharing best practices with regards to protection, and in concluding relocation agreements with the Court or otherwise supporting protection and support activities;

- **Support**: identifying relevant national support mechanisms which could complement the Court’s efforts to support victims and witnesses;

- **Legal Representation**: encouraging their national lawyers to be trained on ICC-related legal matters, in particular in how to represent victims before the Court;

- **Assistance & Reparations**: continuing to contribute to the Trust Fund for Victims, as well as supporting potential fundraising initiatives domestically.