

Questions & Answers: **Review Conference of the Rome Statute**

What is the Review Conference?

The Review Conference is a special meeting of States and other participants, - distinct from the annual Assembly of States Parties (ASP) - to consider amendments to the Rome Statute and to take stock of its implementation and impact.

When and where will it be held?

The first Review Conference on the Rome Statute will be held in Kampala, Uganda from 31 May to 11 June 2010, seven years after the entry into force of the Statute.

What will be reviewed?

In Kampala, states parties and other participants will discuss the following amendment proposals: • The revision of Article 124 of the Rome Statute

- The crime of aggression
- The inclusion of the use of certain weapons as war crimes in non-international armed conflicts

What is stocktaking?

The Review Conference will also consider the impact and successes of the Rome Statute to date. States have decided focus in particular on the following areas:

- Impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and affected communities;
- Complementarity;
- Cooperation;
- Peace and Justice.

States Parties' focal points have been appointed for each of these four items to facilitate preparations for the discussions and, in particular, to decide on their format and expected outcomes.

Who will participate in the Review Conference?

States Parties will make formal decisions but Non-States Parties, the ICC, International Organizations and NGOs will also participate. NGOs, under the umbrella of the CICC, expect to be the biggest delegation at the Conference. The Review Conference will be a critical event for CICC NGO members advocating for a fair, effective and independent ICC. The CICC places great importance on the need to ensure that the Conference is successful; that it defends the integrity of the Rome Statute, and enhances international understanding and support for the ICC.

Why should High Level Representatives take part in the Review Conference?

With so much potential for influencing the development of the Rome Statute system, it is crucial that heads of state or government and/or ministers attend the Review Conference and contribute in full to the discussions. Civil society is convinced that high-level participation would enhance the debate and the outcome of the Review Conference.

Can States make concrete commitments in advance of the Review Conference?

The Review Conference is an important opportunity for States to restate their commitment to the ICC and the Rome Statute system. States Parties have agreed upon a system of pledges, which allows each government to articulate a meaningful commitment going forward. Pledges can pertain to states' contributions to strengthening the system of complementarity, cooperation, or impact on victims and affected communities, as well as other areas of the Rome Statute such as ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities. They can be submitted by state parties, non-state parties, regional bodies or international organizations.

For more information on the CICC and the Review Conference, please visit:

<http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org/?mod=review>

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court is a global network of over 2,000 civil society organizations supporting a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court.

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