From 1-2 July 2013, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court – a global network of more than 2500 civil society organizations working in 150 countries to ensure justice for the victims of crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes – organized its third regional strategy meeting for Europe.

More than 30 representatives from national and international civil society organizations from all over Europe met in Brussels to discuss strategies to bolster the fight against impunity and justice for victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes through the international justice system established by the Rome Statute – the treaty creating the International Criminal Court.

Participants from Albania, Armenia, Belgium, France, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Luxembourg, Moldova, The Netherlands, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom, as well as representatives of regional or international CSO working in Europe, discussed Rome Statute ratification and implementation and strategized on ways to advance the justice agenda in the region.

The Europe region includes 42 states parties, with some of the Court’s staunchest supporters, however, 12 states have yet to ratify the Rome Statute, the Court’s founding treaty. These include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Holy See, Kazakhstan, Kingdom of Monaco, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

At the conclusion of the meeting, participating organizations agreed upon a plan of action and issued a series of recommendations to relevant actors and stakeholders.
Coalition for the International Criminal Court  
Europe Strategy Meeting  
Brussels, 1-2 July 2013

Plan of Action

Civil society organizations participating in the Coalition's 2013 Europe Strategy Meeting adopted the following Plan of Action for building support for the international justice system, pledging to:

- **Advocate for accession/ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC), as well as for strengthened cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC)** by developing strategies locally and regionally;

- **Continue to be active on the ICC after achieving Rome Statute accession/ratification** by closely advocating and monitoring for its implementation, joining Coalition issues teams, following ASP issues, as well as ensuring national support for and cooperation with the Court;

- **Continue to build relationships with national authorities responsible for ICC issues to urge them to make the ICC a priority, and work to involve other authorities in the aim of mainstreaming the ICC issue**;

- **Include the ICC issue in broader national and regional civil society campaigns** for human rights, the rule of law, development, and democratization;

- **Disseminate information widely** in order to raise awareness and counter misinformation on ICC-related issues among state officials, members of parliament, the media, and the general public (preferably translated into the local language).

- **Encourage key civil society organizations and individuals** (including human rights, humanitarian, development, and other organizations, as well as legal practitioners and bar associations) not yet active in the ICC campaign to get involved, to become a member of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, and where relevant, the national coalition;

- **Work towards building capacity of all stakeholders** - government officials, parliamentarians, civil society, and the media—to advocate for and support international justice.

- **Engage with the media** at the respective national level to build awareness and more accurate and complete coverage of national and international ICC developments.

- **Work to strengthen the effective and independent fulfillment of the Court's mandate and impact in relation to victims and affected communities.**
Coalition for the International Criminal Court
Europe Strategy Meeting
Brussels, 1-2 July 2013

Recommendations

Civil society organizations participating in the Coalition’s 2013 Europe Strategy Meeting issued the following Recommendations to relevant stakeholders to build support for the international justice system.

To the national authorities of European States¹

- To take all necessary steps to ratify or accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court without delay, if not yet party;²

- To fully implement the Rome Statute by aligning national legislation with all Statute obligations, including by incorporating provisions to allow for the investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes at the national level, and to allow for full and effective cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC);³

- To ratify or accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the ICC (APIC) allowing the ICC to function in an independent and unconditional manner;

- To provide the ICC with the resources necessary to fulfil its judicial mandate and deliver justice in a robust, fair, effective, and meaningful manner and to reject proposals that would undermine its ability to deliver justice and to respond to new situations;

- To involve civil society representatives from the very beginning and at all stages of the national ICC ratification and implementation processes;

---

¹ Albania, Andorra, Austria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (Former Republic of), Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia (Slovak Republic), Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.

² Armenia (signatory but not state party), Azerbaijan, Belarus, Holy See, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan (signatory but not state party), Monaco (signatory), Russian Federation (signatory but not state party), Turkmenistan, Turkey, Ukraine (signatory but not state party), Uzbekistan (signatory but not state party).

³ Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and the Global Institute for the Prevention of Aggression reiterate their support for the incorporation of provisions to allow for the investigation and prosecution of the crime of aggression as well, as per the amendment of the Rome Statute at the 2010 Review Conference when the definition and the conditions for the ICC’s exercise of jurisdiction over the crime were adopted. Consensus on the issue of the crime of aggression does not, however, exist among all participating organizations.
• To support **capacity-building efforts on the ICC**, including the training of prosecutors, lawyers and judges, as well as of military and police officials, and any other relevant authority; and to support the inclusion of ICC and international justice coursework in university curricula;

• To comply with the ICC’s **requests for assistance and cooperation** at all stages (preliminary examination, investigation, arrest and surrender, protection of victims and witnesses, interim release, enforcement of sentences) as relevant;

• To actively participate in ICC-related events and in sessions of the **Assembly of States Parties (ASP)** to the ICC, and to contribute expertise to ASP discussions;

• To provide financial support to the **Trust Fund for Victims (TFV)**.

• To conclude **framework agreements** with the Court, particularly on witness relocation, interim release, relocation of acquitted persons, and sentence enforcement;

• **To the national authorities of Georgia**: to address the alleged human rights violations and crimes under international law committed during the conflict between Georgia and Russia in August 2008 and to ensure that any national proceedings are conducted in a fair, effective, and transparent manner.

**To the European Union (EU):**

• To continue efforts to implement the **EU’s Council Decision and Action Plan on the ICC**, particularly in the areas of cooperation, complementarity, and universality, including by adopting national and regional strategies and concrete initiatives to foster the universality and the implementation of the Rome Statute and of the APIC within the EU and in third countries, in particular with regard to the countries in the EU neighbourhood and in Central Asia;

• To ensure full and effective mainstreaming and implementation of the **EU’s Toolkit on Complementarity** by EU delegations and EU Member States;

• To ensure **effective implementation of the ICC clauses** included in agreements negotiated with neighbouring countries, in particular with Eastern neighbours such as, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine, and in agreements with candidate countries such as Turkey, as well as clauses included in any other agreement or strategy with third countries or regions, including Central Asia; and ensure an ICC clause is included in all renewed or new agreements that the EU negotiates;

• To offer and provide **technical capacity and assistance** to countries interested in moving forward with ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute, cooperation with the Court, or enhancement of national prosecutions;

• To reinforce the **capacity within the European External Action Service** dedicated to the ICC dossier;

• To ensure all **EU delegations and EU Special Representatives** are fully informed of the EU’s Council Decision and Action Plan on the ICC and the EU’s toolkit on

---

complementarity, and actively promote the ICC, the enforcement of its decisions, and the fight against impunity for Rome Statute crimes, in consultation and open dialogue with relevant civil society groups;

- **To step up diplomatic support for the Court** and promote the fight against impunity in all political dialogues and meetings with third countries and organisations, in particular at the highest levels, with full buy-in by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the EU Special Representative on Human Rights;

- **To continue supporting ICC-related initiatives by global and local civil society in the region**, including through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and Country-Based Support Schemes (CBSS).

**To the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Office of the High Representative for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the United Nations and its agencies:**

- In the framework and in the limits of their respective mandates, to provide technical support and expertise on Rome Statute accession/ratification and implementation to States requesting such assistance, in close cooperation with government authorities, national parliaments, civil society organizations, other regional organisations, and other interested actors;

- To organise meetings to discuss progress on ratification and implementation in the region to allow States to exchange experiences and best practices on a regular basis and encourage member countries to provide regular updates on their respective status;

- Organise trainings of prosecutors, lawyers, and judges on the ICC, as well as military and police officials, and any other relevant authority, and involve national civil society groups as much as possible in ICC-related initiatives at the national and regional level.

**To the International Criminal Court (ICC):**

- To ensure that **communications, outreach, and universality efforts** continue to focus on the European region to shore up supportive States Parties and to encourage States not yet party to undertake positive engagement with the Rome Statute system;

- To strengthen efforts in **increasing understanding of the Court’s mandate** in the region;

- Following the Office of the Prosecutor’s (OTP) public announcement about the opening of a preliminary examination on the situation in Georgia in 2008, ensure regular OTP visits to Georgia, meet with all relevant stakeholders including civil society, and conduct awareness-raising as appropriate;

- In accordance with the OTP’s strategy on preliminary examinations, issue regular detailed reports on the status of the examination into alleged crimes committed during the war between Georgia and Russia and share them with relevant stakeholders, including with civil society groups.
SIGNATORIES

Coalition Europe Strategy Meeting Participants

1. Antoniya ARGIROVA, Amnesty International Luxembourg
2. Greta BARBONE, No Peace Without Justice (NPW)
3. Bekim BLAKAJ, Humanitarian Law Center (HLC), Kosovo
4. Caroline ERIKSEN and Elizabeth EVENSON, Human Rights Watch (HRW)
6. Simon FOREMAN and Anne SOULELIAC, French Coalition for the ICC
7. Tatevik GHARIBYAN, Civil Society Institute (CSI), Armenia
8. Tawanda HONDORA, Amnesty International
9. Natia KATSITADZE, Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA)/Georgian Coalition for the ICC
10. Günał KURSUN, Human Rights Agenda Association/Turkish Coalition for the ICC
11. Luc MEISSNER, Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF)
12. Maja MICIC, Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR), Serbia
13. Simon PAPUASHVILI, Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC)
15. Olga SADOVSKAYA, Interregional Non-governmental Organization "Committee Against Torture", Russia
16. Etilda SALIU, Albanian Helsinki Committee
17. Andreas SCHUELLER, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)
18. Alpha SESAY, Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI)
19. Maia TRUJILLO, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)
20. Manuel VENTURA, Peace & Justice Initiative (PJI)
21. Yevgeniy ZHOVTIS, Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law

Other Coalition members that have aligned themselves with the Plan of Action and Recommendations

1. Amnesty International Switzerland
2. TRIAL, Switzerland
3. ACAT-Suisse, Action des Chrétiens pour l’Abolition de la Torture