

the successor to the International Air Traffic Association, founded in The Hague in 1919, the year of the world's first international scheduled services.

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Director-General: Giovanni Bisignani (Italy).

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and of international humanitarian law, notably the Geneva Conventions. As the promoter and guardian of international humanitarian law, the ICRC must encourage respect for the law. It does so by spreading knowledge of the humanitarian rules and by reminding parties to conflicts of their obligations.

The ICRC has a permanent mandate under international law to take impartial action for prisoners, the wounded and sick, and civilians affected by conflict.

With its HQ in Geneva, Switzerland, the ICRC is based in around 80 countries and has a total of more than 12,000 staff.

In situations of conflict the ICRC co-ordinates the response by national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It acts in consultation with all other organizations involved in humanitarian work.

The ICRC relies for its financing on voluntary contributions from States signatories to the Geneva Conventions, organizations such as the European Union, and public and private sources.

In 2007 ICRC delegates visited more than 510,000 people deprived of their freedom in some 80 countries. ICRC water, sanitation and construction projects catered for the needs of around 14m. people. The ICRC supported hospitals and health care facilities serving some 2.9m. people. It also provided essential household goods to more than 3.9m. people, food aid to 2.5m. people and assistance to another 2.7m. people in the form of sustainable food production and micro-economic initiatives.

Headquarters: 19 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.icrc.org>

President: Jakob Kellenberger (Switzerland).

Further Reading

Moorehead, Caroline, *Dunant's Dream: War, Switzerland and the History of the Red Cross*. 1998

International Criminal Court (ICC)

Origin. As far back as 1946 an international congress called for the adoption of an international criminal code prohibiting crimes against humanity and the prompt establishment of an international criminal court, but for more than 40 years little progress was made.

In 1989 the end of the Cold War brought a dramatic increase in the number of UN peacekeeping operations and a world where the idea of establishing an International Criminal Court became more viable. The United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court took place from 15 June–17 July 1998 in Rome, Italy.

Aims and Activities. The International Criminal Court is a permanent court for trying individuals who have been accused of committing genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, and is thus a successor to the *ad hoc* tribunals set up by the UN Security Council to try those responsible for atrocities in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Ratification by 60 countries was required to bring the statute into effect. The court began operations on 1 July 2002 with 139 signatories and after ratification by 76 countries. By Feb. 2010 the number of ratifications had increased to 110. Its first trial, with Thomas Lubanga facing war crimes charges for his role in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's civil war, opened on 26 Jan. 2009.

Judges. The International Criminal Court's first 18 judges were elected in Feb. 2003, with six serving for three years, six for six years and six for nine years. Every three years six new judges will be elected. At present the 18 judges, with the year in which their term of office is scheduled to end, are: Joyce Aluoch (Kenya, 2018); Bruno Cotte (France, 2012); Fatoumata Dembele Diarra (Mali, 2012); Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi (Argentina, 2018); Sir Adrian Fulford (United Kingdom, 2012); Hans-Peter Kaul (Germany, 2015); Erkki Kourula (Finland, 2015); Akua Kuenyehia (Ghana, 2015); Sanji Mmasenono Monageng (Botswana, 2018); Daniel David Ntanda Nsereko (Uganda, 2012); Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica, 2012); Kuniko Ozaki (Japan, 2018); Song Sang-hyun (South Korea, 2015); Sylvia Helena de Figueiredo Steiner (Brazil, 2012); Cuno Tarfusser (Italy, 2018); Ekaterina Trendafilova (Bulgaria, 2015); Anita Ušacka (Latvia, 2015); Christine Van Den Wyngaert (Belgium, 2018). René Blattmann (Bolivia), whose term ended in March 2009, will continue to serve for the duration of the Lubanga trial (*see above*).

Prosecutor. Luis Moreno-Ocampo (Argentina) was elected the first prosecutor of the Court on 21 April 2003.

Headquarters: Maanweg 174, 2516 AB The Hague, Netherlands.

Website: <http://www.icc-cpi.int>

President: Song Sang-hyun (South Korea).

Further Reading

Macedo, Stephen, (ed.) *Universal Jurisdiction: National Courts and the Prosecution of Serious Crimes Under International Law*. 2003

Reydams, Luc, *Universal Jurisdiction: International and Municipal Perspectives*. 2003

Struett, Michael J., *The Politics of Constructing the International Criminal Court: NGOs, Discourse, and Agency*. 2008

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

Created in 1995, International IDEA is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democratic change through providing comparative knowledge, assisting in democratic reform, and influencing policies and politics. International IDEA focuses on the ability of democratic institutions to deliver a political system marked by public participation and inclusion, representative and accountable government, responsiveness to citizens' needs and aspirations, and the rule of law and equal rights for all citizens.