

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. 2014 the number of ratifications had increased to 122. 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 and was not concluded until 14 March 2012. Lubanga was found guilty of conscripting and enlisting children under the age of 15 and using them to participate in hostilities.

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 are elected. Anthony Carmona of Trinidad and Tobago was elected in Dec. 2011 and became a judge in March 2012 but resigned in Feb. 2013 to become the country's president. At present the 18 judges, with the year in which their term of office is scheduled to end, are: Joyce Aluoch (Kenya, 2018); Chile Eboe-Osuji (Nigeria, 2021); Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi (Argentina, 2018); Robert Fremr (Czech Republic, 2021); Geoffrey A. Henderson (Trinidad and Tobago, 2021); Olga Venecia Herrera Carbuca (Dominican Republic, 2021); Hans-Peter Kaul (Germany, 2015); Erkki Kourula (Finland, 2015); Akua Kuenyehia (Ghana, 2015); Sanji Mmasenono Monageng (Botswana, 2018); Howard Morrison (United Kingdom, 2021); Kuniko Ozaki (Japan, 2018); Song Sang-hyun (South Korea, 2015); Miriam Defensor Santiago (Philippines, 2021); Cuno Tarfusser (Italy, 2018); Ekaterina Trendafilova (Bulgaria, 2015); Anita Ušacka (Latvia, 2015); Christine Van Den Wyngaert (Belgium, 2018).

Prosecutor. Fatou Bensouda (Gambia) was unanimously elected the second prosecutor of the Court on 12 Dec. 2011 and succeeded Luis Moreno-Ocampo (Argentina) on 16 June 2012.

Headquarters: Maanweg 174, 2516 AB The Hague, Netherlands.
Website: <http://www.icc-cpi.int>
President: Song Sang-hyun (South Korea).

Further Reading

- Baker, Michael N. (ed.) *International Criminal Court: Developments and U.S. Policy*. 2012
- Macedo, Stephen, (ed.) *Universal Jurisdiction: National Courts and the Prosecution of Serious Crimes Under International Law*. 2003
- Mendes, Errol, *Peace and Justice at the International Criminal Court: A Court of Last Resort*. 2010
- Reydams, Luc, *Universal Jurisdiction: International and Municipal Perspectives*. 2003
- Schabas, William A., *An Introduction to the International Criminal Court*. 4th ed. 2011
- 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.

Aims and Activities. International IDEA undertakes work through three activity areas: providing comparative knowledge derived from practical experience on democracy-building processes—elections and referendums, constitutions, political parties, women's political empowerment and democracy self-assessments—from diverse contexts around the world; assisting political actors in reforming democratic institutions and processes, and engaging in political processes when invited to do so; influencing democracy-building policies and assistance to political actors.

Membership. International IDEA had 29 full member states and one observer state in Feb. 2014.

Organization. International IDEA has regional operations in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, and has a staff of over 70 worldwide.

Headquarters: Strömsborg, 103 34 Stockholm, Sweden.
Website: <http://www.idea.int>
Acting Secretary-General: Joan Sawe (Kenya).

International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)

Founded in 1979 as the International Maritime Satellite Organization (Inmarsat) to establish a satellite system to improve maritime communications for distress and safety and commercial applications. Its competence was subsequently expanded to include aeronautical and land mobile communications. Privatization, which was completed in April 1999, transferred the business to a newly created company and the Organization remains as a regulator to ensure that the company fulfils its public services obligations. The company has taken the Inmarsat name and the Organization uses the acronym IMSO. In Feb. 2014 the Organization had 98 member parties.

Organization. The Assembly of all Parties to the Convention meets every two years.

Headquarters: 99 City Road, London EC1Y 1AX, UK.
IMSO Website: <http://www.imso.org>
Email: info@imso.org
Inmarsat Website: <http://www.inmarsat.com>
Director of the Secretariat, IMSO: Esteban Pachá Vicente (Spain).
Chief Executive, Inmarsat Ltd: Andrew Sukawaty (USA).

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Founded in 1894 by French educator Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the International Olympic Committee is an international non-governmental, non-profit organization whose members act as the IOC's representatives in their respective countries, not as delegates of their countries within the IOC. The Committee's main responsibility is to supervise the organization of the summer and winter Olympic Games. It owns all rights to the Olympic symbols, flag, motto, anthem and Olympic Games.

Aims. 'To contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport, practised without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic Spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.'

Finances. The IOC receives no public funding. Its only source of funding is from private sectors, with the substantial part of these revenues coming from television broadcasters and sponsors.