

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 Oct. 2004 the number of ratifications had increased to 97.

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. The 18 judges elected in 2003, with the year in which their term of office is scheduled to end, were: René Blattmann (Bolivia, 2009); Maureen Harding Clark (Ireland, 2012); Fatoumata Dembele Diarra (Mali, 2012); Adrian Fulford (United Kingdom, 2012); Karl Hudson-Phillips (Trinidad and Tobago, 2012); Claude Jorda (France, 2009); Hans-Peter Kaul (Germany, 2006); Philippe Kirsch (Canada, 2009); Erkki Kourula (Finland, 2006); Akua Kuenyehia (Ghana, 2006); Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica, 2012); Georghios Pikis (Cyprus, 2009); Navanethem Pillay (South Africa, 2009); Mauro Politi (Italy, 2009); Tuiloma Neroni Slade (Samoa, 2006); Song Sang-hyun (South Korea, 2006); Sylvia Helena de Figueiredo Steiner (Brazil, 2012); Anita Usacka (Latvia, 2006).

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>

Further Reading

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

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

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE (IDEA)

Created in 1995, International IDEA is an intergovernmental organization that seeks to promote and develop sustainable democracy worldwide. Global in membership and independent of specific national interests, IDEA works with both new and long-established democracies, helping to develop the institutions and culture of democracy. It operates at international, regional and national levels, working in partnership with a range of institutions.

Aims and Activities. IDEA aims to: help countries build capacity to develop democratic institutions; provide a meeting-place for and facilitate dialogue between democracy practitioners around the world; increase knowledge and expertise about elections and election observation; promote transparency, accountability, professionalism and efficiency in elections in the context of democratic development; develop and promote norms, rules and guidelines relating to multi-party pluralism and broader democratic processes. The principal areas of activity include: electoral systems and management; political participation, including women in politics; political parties, management and financing; post-conflict democracy building and reconciliation; democracy at local level; democracy indicators and assessment.

Membership. The International IDEA had 23 full member states and two observer states in March 2005.

Headquarters: Strömsberg, 103 34 Stockholm, Sweden.

Website: <http://www.idea.int>

Secretary-General: Karen Fogg (UK).