

## **PARTICIPATING COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORTS – ICC IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Côte d'Ivoire**

Both MPs reiterated the governments' commitment to the Rome Statute, which materialized through an ad hoc acceptance of the jurisdiction of the Court in 2003. Despite the current difficult political situation, both MPs recognized the need to adapt the countries' national legislation in order to meet the ICC's cooperation requests.

### **Ghana**

Ghana has decided to reactivate the National inter-Agency Task Force for the implementation of the Rome Statute. Among other things, the Task Force will review the necessary steps to incorporate the Rome Statute into the Municipal law' given due consideration to the need to conclude cooperation and enforcement agreements with the ICC as well as ratifying the Agreement on the privileges and immunities of the ICC. Incorporating the Rome Statute in domestic jurisdictions will help harmonize standards for prosecutions in national jurisdictions. The Government of Ghana, in collaboration with parliament shall endeavour to accomplish these objectives by the end of this year.

### **Guinea**

As a direct follow-up of Mgr. Gomez' report of the Roundtable, the plenary of the National Transitional Council (CNT), decided, on the 21st of February 2011, that the adoption of the ICC implementing legislation shall figure as an agenda item on the programme of the Council, which will now seek for the most feasible option to proceed in this endeavour. On 23 February 2011, the Prime Ministers' office has been informed of the intention to not only work on an ICC bill, but also to intensify the cooperation with PGA.

### **Liberia**

The Minister for Justice of Liberia and Attorney General, Hon. Cllr. Christian Tah signaled in her intervention that work had already begun to incorporate the Rome Statute of the ICC into domestic criminal law.

### **Mali**

Hon. Boubacar Diarra committed that the PGA National Group will approach the Committee for Legislative Affairs of the parliament of Mali in order to include the discussion on implementing provisions of cooperation with the ICC into the domestic legislation.

### **Sierra Leone**

After ratification, the domestication of the Rome Statute was faced with a number of challenges. The Constitution of Sierra Leone (1991) requires that International treaties or commitments such as the Rome Statute need the enactment of implementing legislation. As a country emerging from a devastating conflict, Sierra Leone was confronted with competing priorities and was therefore not immediately able to prioritize implementing legislation. The draft bill on the Rome Statute is now before the newly appointed Attorney General and Minister of Justice, who coincidentally was the former Chairman of Manifesto 99 and championed the drafting of the implementing legislation. It is expected that the draft bill will be open to civil society scrutiny and input once it is approved by cabinet, prior to it being tabled in Parliament. The PGA National Group is closely collaborating with a Coalition of Civil Society on the International Criminal Court (CCSICC) to fast track the domestication of the Rome Statute. A Committee

has already been set up to draft a Memorandum of Understanding between the PGA National Group and the Coalition. The MOU is expected to be signed soon.

***PGA organized a similar Regional West African ICC Implementation Workshop in the Parliament of Sierra Leone in Freetown in January 2008. For further information, please click here.***

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