



ICC

International Criminal Court



Committee: International Criminal Court

Topic: Crisis

Written by: Victoria Perales Calvo

Dear Delegates;

Welcome to the International Criminal Court (ICC). It is a privilege to have you here as part of this important and dynamic committee, where we delve into the complex world of international justice. The ICC stands as a cornerstone of accountability in the global community, holding individuals responsible for the most heinous crimes that threaten the very fabric of humanity, genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. As delegates, you carry the immense responsibility of representing nations and voices that are integral to shaping the court's legacy and addressing the challenges it faces. This committee will not only require you to debate and negotiate, but also to think critically, examine ethical dilemmas, and work collaboratively to uphold the principles of justice and fairness. We encourage you to approach these discussions with passion, respect, and an open mind as you take on the role of advocates for international law.

This Court will be in charge of the following team: Head of International Court - Seonyoung Lee, President - Zoe Flores, and Vice-President - Daniela Elizondo. We look forward to witnessing your dedication, innovation, and diplomacy in action as you contribute to the ongoing pursuit of justice and accountability in today's world. Best of luck, and let the debates begin!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at:

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Sincerely,

Victoria Perales

Under-Chief of Crisis

Secretariat SPISMUN Paseo 2025

I. COMMITTEE HISTORY

The International Criminal Court was officially established on July 1, 2002, when its founding treaty, the Rome Statute, officially came into force. Until then, the world had no permanent court to try individuals for the worst crimes known to humanity under international law: genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, with the addition of the crime of aggression. It was after the atrocities of World War II that the idea of an international court for such crimes first emerged. After the war, the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals prosecuted the high-ranking officials responsible for the Holocaust and other war crimes, thus laying the foundation for holding individuals accountable on charges of crimes against humanity. Those tribunals were, however, ad hoc and confined to the conflicts they addressed; for decades thereafter, there was no permanent mechanism to deal with similar crimes. The concept of an international court gained momentum in the 1990s, following atrocities including genocide in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. These crises saw ad hoc tribunals, but the lack of their own weaknesses highlighted an increasing need for a permanent, independent body. After extensive negotiation, delegates from more than 120 countries drafted the Rome Statute in 1998, with the document laying out the structure of the ICC. Some 60 nations had ratified the treaty by the beginning of 2002, officially making the court a reality. Headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, the ICC operates independently from the United Nations, although it often collaborates with the UN Security Council, which can refer cases to the court. Importantly, the ICC can investigate only alleged crimes committed after its establishment and within the territories of member states or referred cases. But besides these ambitious goals, the ICC has been criticized, among other things,



for perceived bias, its limited jurisdiction, and challenges in enforcing its decisions. Yet it is a milestone in the battle against impunity and a strong symbol of the commitment of the international community to justice, accountability, and the prevention of future atrocities.

Judges won't be asked to submit any kind of evidence as the Case for the trial will be presented during the first session.

II. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

1. Attendance Check

The dais conducts a roll call to confirm the presence of all judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and other representatives.

2. Motion to Open the Session

A delegate raises a motion to officially open the session. The motion must be seconded and approved to proceed.

3. Presentation of the Secretariat and Court Officials

The secretariat members and the presiding officers introduce themselves, outlining their roles and expectations for the session.

4. Reading of the Case Docket

The Chair introduces the case(s) on the agenda, summarizing the charges, background, and legal framework for the trial. This step ensures that all participants are familiar with the context of the session.

5. Motion to Open a Moderated Debate (Evidence and Arguments)

A motion is raised to open a **moderated debate**. During this phase, the prosecution and

defense present their evidence and arguments. Delegates may respond to questions from judges or address specific aspects of the case. Speaking time is determined by the dais.

6. Motion to Open an Unmoderated Debate (Cross-Examination and Negotiations)

A motion is raised to open an **unmoderated debate**, allowing delegates to engage in direct dialogue, cross-examinations, or negotiations. This phase fosters collaboration and clarifies evidence or arguments.

7. Presentation of Closing Arguments

The prosecution and defense deliver **closing arguments**, summarizing their cases and making their final appeals to the judges.

8. Motion to Vote on the Verdict or Resolution

A motion is raised to proceed to voting. Judges and authorized representatives cast their votes to determine the verdict. For broader resolutions related to ICC functions or reforms, all delegates may participate in the vote.

9. Announcement of the Verdict or Decision

The Chair announces the final verdict or decision, summarizing the key points that led to the outcome.

10. Motion to Close the Session

A delegate raises a motion to officially close the session, marking the conclusion of the proceedings.

III. REFERENCES

Establishment of an International Criminal Court - overview. (n.d).

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The International Criminal Court: History and role. (n.d).

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<https://www.britannica.com/topic/International-Criminal-Court?utm>