

Press release

International Expert Framework discusses the law of procedure for international criminal tribunals

A top-level group of experts including pre-eminent scholars and practitioners specialised in international criminal procedure will meet on 23 and 24 January in The Hague. The Expert Meeting is the first of a series of meetings to be held under the umbrella of a joint research project of the Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law (Hiil) and the Amsterdam Center for International Law (ACIL) of the University of Amsterdam.

Effective and fair trials

The research project titled *Towards the codification of general rules and principles* aims to elaborate a coherent set of general rules and principles of international criminal procedure. At the moment there is still much unclarity regarding these rules and principles. The rules would serve as a framework to assist both present and future international tribunals, as well as national criminal courts, in facing the greatest challenge of international criminal justice: delivering effective and fair trials. Ultimately, they could crystallize into a Model Code of International Criminal Procedure.

Professor Göran Sluiter (University of Amsterdam) - a project leader and a member of the defence team of Katanga case before the International Criminal Court - says: "We hope the project will remind all involved in international criminal justice that the greatest challenge now and for years to come lies in procedural law and not substantive law; with the review conference for the ICC Statute rapidly approaching it would be wise for States parties to look critically at procedure as well; one amazing example, which will be included in our research, is that the Judges of the ICC lack the power to subpoena a witness."

Steering Committee

This initiative to improve the law of international criminal procedure involves some 40 participants. They carry out their research under the supervision and guidance of a Steering Committee including, in addition to Göran Sluiter, such outstanding scholars and practitioners as Håkan Friman (University College London) Claus Kress (University of Cologne) Suzannah Linton (University of Hong Kong), Salvatore Zappalà (University of Catania).

Amsterdam Center for International Law (ACIL)

The ACIL is a research center which integrates the various research activities related to international law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Amsterdam. The project strengthens and builds upon the ongoing ACIL research programme *International Criminal Procedure: In Search of General Rules and Principles*, financed by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

The Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law

National Law in a Global Society is the general research programme of The Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law. Hiil's involvement in the project stems from the recognition that globalisation impacts on national crime in the same way that it affects other areas of the national legal order. When the dividing line between 'domestic' serious crimes, that affect national peace and good social order, and transnational or international crimes is no longer easily discerned serious reflection is required on the best responses to address large-scale, cross-border criminality. The colloquium *How to Adjudicate the Most Serious Crimes* organised by Hiil on 15 and 16 October 2007 in the Peace Palace in The Hague explored this theme. Based on the outcome of the colloquium Hiil set as a purported aim of its research a compilation of best practices on how to deal

with the procedural challenges posed by the most serious crimes, which could provide a practical tool for those who face such procedural challenges in the internationalised judicial setting

More information

For more information on the Hiil and ACIL project *Towards the codification of general rules and principles*, look at www.icp-eg.org.

On www.hiil.org you will find more information about Hiil.

On www.acil.org you will find more information about ACIL.

Note for the press (not to be published)

This note is embargoed up and till 16 January 2009.

Press coverage

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