



CIB
CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE DES BARREAUX
DE TRADITION JURIDIQUE COMMUNE

(International Conference of Bars from Common Legal Tradition)

Resolution on the ICC *ReVision* project

The CIB gathered in Dakar, Senegal, for its 29th Congress, 3-7 December 2014,

- NOTING the restructuring project concerning the ICC Registry, nominally the *ReVision* project;
- NOTING the contribution of the CIB to the creation of the ICC, as a model of permanent international criminal justice, via individual and collective commitment of its members;
- NOTING the ICC Registrar's willingness to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Registry;

For these reasons the CIB:

- EXPRESSES concerns and regrets that such a project is not subject to a sufficiently transparent process led in consultation with the legal and judicial profession, its representatives, interested parties, NGOs and specialised international Associations;
- STRONGLY OBJECTS to any compromise of the independence vested in Counsel within the ICC, or infringements upon legal assistance, and qualitative and specialised representation provided by these Counsels to suspects, accused, victims and affected communities;
- RECALLS that such an unprecedented infringement would irremediably affect the quality of justice, its equity and most importantly the equality of arms;
- DEMANDS to be consulted as part of such a transparent, cooperative and consultative process;
- SHARES the concerns expressed – via open letters and resolutions – by practising Counsel and partner and observer NGOs (e.g. UIA, FIDH, BPI, Réseau ASF);
- RECALLS that in 2012, the ICC Judges reformed and enhanced, by modification of the Regulations of the Court, the institutional legal assistance and representation offered to victims, suspects, accused, as well as Defence Counsel and Legal Representatives for the Victims. This independent and existing system satisfactorily fulfils its mandate and missions;
- RESPECTFULLY AND CONFIDENTLY REQUESTS that the ICC Judges exercise caution with regards to any infringement to the abovementioned fundamental defence principles, while keeping in mind that the reduction of legal aid has already significantly affected this assistance;
- FAVOURABLY WELCOMES that the ICC finally recognises the potential value of an Association representative and protective of the interests of the profession. Such an Association must be independent and complementary to the existing institutions within the ICC and whose mandates would not be concurrent;
- RECALLS as much as necessary, as representing the Barreaux de Tradition Juridique Commune, the need for the ICC to represent the balance between judicial systems that enriches the Rome Statute, and to respect the use of the two official working languages, French and English.