

FOREWORD

The papers in this volume were prepared by the Center on International Cooperation under the auspices of the Project on International Courts and Tribunals (PICT) to provide the Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court and the Assembly of States Parties with independent analyses of critical issues under consideration in the establishment of the Court.

Aware that international law is the linchpin of a burgeoning international public sector, and that courts, tribunals, and other dispute settlement bodies have emerged in virtually every area of international activity, in 1996 the Center on International Cooperation (New York University) and the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development—FIELD (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London) launched PICT. The project now operates under the joint auspice of the Center on International Cooperation and the Centre on International Courts and Tribunals at University College London.

PICT's mission is to address the legal, institutional, policy and financial issues arising from the multiplication of international courts and tribunals and other dispute settlement bodies, as well as from the increased willingness of members of the international community to have recourse to them.

PICT addresses legal, institutional and financial issues arising out of the proliferation of international courts and dispute settlement bodies and the growing number of cases that these bodies are called upon to address. The overall objective is to promote research, training and public education activities that will contribute to the more effective, equitable and efficient delivery of international justice.

- *Effectiveness*: reinforcing the authoritative role of international courts and bodies in the administration and development of the international legal system; strengthening their credibility as convenient and efficient dispute settlement bodies; ensuring the implementation of their rulings;
- *Equity*: reducing financial and other barriers that limit the ability of less well-endowed actors to use international courts and dispute settlement bodies; providing practical know-how and legal skills to their actual and potential users;

- *Efficiency*: ensuring the availability of adequate financial means and the use of the best management practices; decreasing costs and length of proceedings by streamlining statutes and rules of procedure.

To achieve these general objectives PICT promotes and undertakes research on legal, financial, procedural and access issues that affect the delivery of international justice, with the intent of identifying potential solutions.

PICT itself takes no position on the legal questions involved, but believes that the views of the papers' authors can help to both clarify provisions in the Rome Statute and its supporting instruments, and inform decisions on outstanding issues—many being crucial for the establishment of a credible, authoritative and legitimate International Criminal Court. We invite readers to comment on the volume directly to the editor at thordis.ingadottir@nyu.edu or to PICT staff at info@pict-pecti.org.

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