



TO ALL STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Ref.: 2011/058/LMO/JCCD-osg
Date: 06 October 2011
Object: Information on the ICC Legal Tools Database
and inviting participation

Your Excellency,
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform your Government of the recent breakthroughs in the work on the Legal Tools Database.¹ The Database provides free public access to legal documents on the law of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and the crime of aggression.² It has been systematically developed by the Legal Tools Project coordinated by my Office since 2003, in consultation with the other Organs of the Court.

With more than 26,000 hits and 1,400 unique visitors per month, the Database has seen a surge in its use. During the past week, the number of visible documents in the collections of the Database surpassed 48,200.³ It has become the leading resource for legal information on core international crimes.

These collections include 11,272 documents generated by the ICC itself; 13,200 key documents produced by other international criminal jurisdictions; 1,891 documents from national cases involving core international crimes; an advanced research tool for national legislation; and 8,991 documents prepared during the negotiations of the ICC Statute, Rules of Procedure and Elements of Crime document, including for the amendments of provisions in the Statute on crimes. In the course of 2011, more than 1,000 World War II-related documents are being added to the Database.

¹ The Database is available at www.legal-tools.org.

² The Database does not provide factual information on crimes or alleged crimes.

³ You can consult real-time the actual number for each collection in the table at <http://www.legal-tools.org/en/current-status-of-the-tools/>.

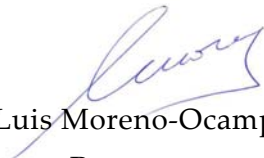
In addition to searching the full text of each document in the Database,⁴ it also searches standard categories of information about each document. The Database is available in English and French, but searches can be conducted in many more – and an increasing number of – languages. Importantly, the Database will not change the Internet address or URL of the documents it contains. This helps users to source documents with full stability, also in the longer term.⁵ We remain committed to the further development of the content and technical qualities of the Database.

I am pleased to share the fruits of this sustained effort with those outside the Court who work with the law on core crimes. I believe that the Legal Tools Database will serve to help those entrusted with the investigation, prosecution, defence and adjudication of such crimes to work more cost-effectively.

To this end, your Government is invited to contribute to the information relevant to your country in the *National Jurisdictions*, *National Implementing Legislation* and *National Cases Involving Core International Crimes* collections in the Database. Indeed, with your assistance, we can ensure that the utility of the Legal Tools Database will continue to grow. The dissemination of legal information on international criminal law is a common interest of the entire community around the International Criminal Court. We are continuing the process of collecting documents and are working with a network of external partners to assist with managing these documents.⁶

I invite you to submit such materials to legal.tools@icc-cpi.int.⁷

Yours sincerely,



Luis Moreno-Ocampo
Prosecutor

⁴ With the exception of approximately 200 old documents that are being processed.

⁵ This guarantee is known as Persistent URLs or PURL.

⁶ You can read about these three collections in the section called 'Overview of the Tools' at www.legal-tools.org, and you can see which documents, if any, are currently in the Database folders for your country by going to each of the three collections (click 'Go to Database', then accept the standard terms and conditions of use at the bottom of the page, and you can access your folders in the tree structure that appears, in the collections *National Jurisdictions*, *National Implementing Legislation* and *National Cases Involving Core International Crimes*). The group of external partners help to create a sustainable environment for the long-term collection of documents and the registration of metadata and keywords for every document.

⁷ For the documents to be searchable for the users, it is important that you forward them either in Word or html format, or as fully searchable PDF files.