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PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER III

Before: Judge Althea Violet Alexis-Windsor, Presiding Judge
Judge Iulia Motoc
Judge Haykel Ben-Mahfoudh

SITUATION IN UGANDA

PUBLIC

**Thirty-Eighth Periodic Report of the Registry on Applications Received by the
Victims Participation and Reparations Section in the Situation in Uganda**

Source: Registry

Document to be notified in accordance with regulation 31 of the *Regulations of the Court* to:

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I. Introduction

1. On 12 March 2012, the Single Judge of Pre-Trial Chamber II (in its previous composition) ordered the Victims Participation and Reparations Section (“VPRS”), following the submission of a comprehensive report on the *status quo* of all victim applications for participation in proceedings received in the Situation in Uganda (“Situation”),¹ to submit every four months a periodic report on further applications received and the progress made by the VPRS on their assessment under rule 85 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence (“Rules”).² The Registry hereby submits its thirty-eighth periodic report in the Situation, covering the period from 11 September 2024 to 10 January 2025.

II. Applicable Law

2. The Registry submits the present report in accordance with article 68(1) and (3) of the Rome Statute, rules 16(1) and 89(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and regulation 86 of the Regulations of the Court.

III. Submissions

A. Status of applications for participation

3. To date, 5,623 victims have submitted to the Registry application forms for participation and/or reparations in the Uganda situation and the related cases.³

¹ Registry, “Comprehensive report on the *status quo* of all applications received in the Situation in Uganda and on other aspects related to victims' applications for participation in the proceedings”, 11 May 2012, ICC-02/04-193.

² Pre-Trial Chamber II, “Decision on Victim's Participation in Proceedings Related to the Situation in Uganda”, dated 9 March 2012 and notified on 12 March 2012, ICC-02/04-191, para. 31.

³ Out of these, 3,460 forms of victims already participating in the *Ongwen* proceedings have since been also transferred to the *Kony* case, following the victims' expressed desire to participate in both proceedings. In addition, since the last periodic report, the Registry has received 16 new applications for participation in the *Kony* case, out of which one application might be a duplicate (i.e. the same

4. In the case of *The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen* (“Ongwen case”), currently at the reparations stage before Trial Chamber IX, there are 4,096 participating victims.⁴ During the reporting period, the VPRS continued the vulnerability and dire needs assessment of the participating victims for the purpose of reparations.
5. In the context of the proceedings in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Joseph Kony* (“Kony case”) and in light of Pre-Trial Chamber III’s decision issued on 13 December 2024,⁵ the VPRS is currently reviewing all victim application forms for participation and/or reparations received in the Situation and related cases from victims who expressed their wish to participate in the *Kony* case for the purpose of the confirmation of charges hearing.⁶

B. Activities undertaken by the VPRS in the field during the reporting period (11 September 2024 – 10 January 2025)

6. During the reporting period, the VPRS has continued its activities in relation to the identification and eligibility assessment of potential beneficiaries of reparations. It engaged with intermediaries, community-based organisations (“CBOs”) led by victims and other organisations focusing on justice for victims, to consolidate its network of partners who are instrumental during the identification of potential beneficiaries of reparations in the *Ongwen* case.

applicant potentially filled two separate application forms). This brings the overall number of victim applications registered across cases in the Situation to 9,083.

⁴ Trial Chamber IX, “Decision on the Registry Additional Information on Victims”, 16 December 2022, ICC-02/04-01/15-2024, para. 18 and fn. 37.

⁵ Pre-Trial Chamber III, “Decision on victim participation, legal representation, and on the OPCV’S Application for recognition of the status of victims in the Kony case to the victims participating in the Ongwen case”, 13 December 2024, ICC-02/04-01/05-540.

⁶ Pre-Trial Chamber III, “Decision Setting the Date of the Confirmation of Charges Hearing and Related Time Limits”, 12 December 2024, ICC-02/04-01/05-539. See also footnote 3 *supra*. The confirmation of charges hearing is scheduled to commence on 9 September 2025.

During the reporting period, the VPRS also continued to share information and engaged in periodic exchanges as well as joint activities with the Trust Fund for Victims (“TFV”), the Public Information and Outreach Section (“PIOS”) and the LRVs.

7. Between 3 and 9 October 2024, the VPRS field team conducted consultations with key stakeholders in Kampala and Gulu, primarily aimed at: (i) providing information and updates about upcoming activities related to reparations in the *Ongwen* case, and (ii) assessing the levels of knowledge and understanding of victims and interlocutors of various aspects related to both *Ongwen* and *Kony* cases, notably on the procedural stages and the scope of the cases. In Gulu, the VPRS met with 39 individuals, including Situation intermediaries, focal persons of victim communities in IDP camps and victims’ representatives. Registry staff disseminated comprehensive information about the reparations process and the next steps, and rumours and misinformation circulating within the affected communities were addressed. During consultations, Registry interlocutors raised a number of issues and challenges, including the limited understanding of the scopes of the *Ongwen* and *Kony* cases. In Kampala, VPRS staff members from headquarters (“HQ”) and the country office (“CO”) met with PIOS and TFV field staff to discuss a number of reparations-related aspects, including the individual and household forms to be used for victims to apply for reparations.⁷

8. Between 13 and 21 November 2024, the VPRS participated in a joint mission with the Office of the Prosecutor and PIOS, conducted in Soroti, Lira and Gulu. The mission was aimed at disseminating information regarding the latest developments in the *Kony* case. The VPRS invited some of its

⁷ Relevant consultations and discussions continue through correspondence between the offices including HQ and CO colleagues.

intermediaries and other interlocutors to attend the meetings. Community members that were consulted raised a number of questions pertaining to victim participation in the confirmation of charges hearing and to eligibility criteria for such participation. Answers were provided during meetings, as well as in tailored radio programmes.

9. During the reporting period, the VPRS reinforced its Uganda-based field team by recruiting two additional staff members: one field officer and one field assistant. Between 2 and 6 December 2024, a team of six VPRS staff members from both the CO and HQ conducted a mission to Gulu, aimed at conducting intensive training for Situation intermediaries, focal persons from IDP camps and representatives of victims' associations and related groups. The mission also served to further assess the different roles that the aforementioned actors may play during the participation and reparations processes across the two cases. The training was attended by 53 representatives from the various crime locations of the *Ongwen* and *Kony* cases. In addition to providing training on the scope of the cases, the VPRS also discussed the different roles intermediaries will play, particularly in identifying and collecting victims' information, disseminating information and mobilizing victims throughout the identification stage in the *Ongwen* reparation process. The VPRS also organized brainstorming sessions with participants to gather their views and opinions on how victims want the reparations process in the *Ongwen* case to be approached and handled. The majority of participants highlighted the need for more information on reparations and the next procedural steps, to be circulated inside victims' communities. Participants also recommended more direct Registry engagement with victims. Consequently, the VPRS selected five victim organisations, operating in different regions in Northern Uganda, to help with the dissemination of information and the mobilization of victims from across Northern Uganda to participate in joint PIOS/VPRS outreach

activities in collaboration with the TFV in the coming months. The next joint PIOS/VPRS mission is envisaged to deploy later this month.



Marc Dubuisson, Director, Division of Judicial Services
On behalf of Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Registrar

Dated this 13 January 2025

At The Hague, The Netherlands