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**International
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Court**

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TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before: Judge María del Socorro Flores Liera, Presiding Judge
Judge Kimberly Prost
Judge Nicolas Guillou

SITUATION IN UGANDA

IN THE CASE OF THE PROSECUTOR v. DOMINIC ONGWEN

Public Document

**Trust Fund for Victims' First Update Report on the implementation of reparations
in the Ongwen case, with Annexes I, II and III and Confidential Annex IV**

Source: Trust Fund for Victims

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

☐ **The Office of the Prosecutor**

☐ **Counsel for the Defence**

Specify the team(s) to be notified

☐ **Legal Representatives of the Victims**

Specify the team(s) to be notified

☐ **Legal Representatives of the**

Applicants

☐ **Unrepresented Victims**

☐ **Unrepresented Applicants**

(Participation/Reparation)

☐ **The Office of Public Counsel for
Victims**

☐ **The Office of Public Counsel for the
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☐ **States' Representatives**

☒ **Trust Fund for Victims**

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☐ **Counsel Support Section**

☐ **Victims and Witnesses Unit**

☐ **Detention Section**

☒ **Victims Participation and
Reparations Section**

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Public Information and Outreach Section

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 28 February 2024, Trial Chamber IX issued an order for reparations (“Reparations Order” or “Order”) against Mr Ongwen, ordering collective community-based reparations focused on rehabilitation, and symbolic and satisfaction measures to the direct and indirect victims of the crimes for which he was convicted, through the Trust Fund for Victims (“TFV”). Trial Chamber IX set Mr Ongwen’s liability at EUR 52,429,000 and instructed the TFV to develop a draft implementation plan (“DIP”) for reparations.¹

2. On 18 February 2025, Trial Chamber II approved the DIP,² which the TFV had submitted on 3 September 2024,³ and instructed the TFV to file a first update report on the implementation of reparations by 18 June 2025, four months from the date of their decision.⁴

3. This update report pursuant to regulation 58 of the Regulations of the Trust Fund for Victims covers reparations related activities in Uganda, in relation to the case of *The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen* (“Ongwen case”).

4. The structure of this report is guided by the status of implementation of reparations for victims of the *Ongwen* case as follows:

- a. Contextual information;
- b. Identification and eligibility;
- c. Programmatic development;
- d. Programme implementation;
- e. Monitoring, evaluation, learning, and accountability;
- f. Collaboration with stakeholders;
- g. Communication and visibility;
- h. Fund mobilisation and resources;
- i. Reporting schedule to the Trial Chamber.

¹ Reparations Order, 28 February 2024, [ICC-02/04-01/15-2074](#), paras 797, 800.

² Decision on the Draft Implementation Plan, 18 February 2025, [ICC-02/04-01/15-2106](#).

³ Trust Fund for Victims’ submission of Draft Implementation Plan, 3 September 2024, [ICC-02/04-01/15-2099](#), with Annex containing DIP chart.

⁴ Decision on the DIP, para. 79.

II. CLASSIFICATION OF PRESENT REPORT

5. Pursuant to regulation 23 *bis* (1) of the Regulations of the Court, the TFV has classified Annex IV as confidential given this is a confidential work product of the Registry.

III. CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

6. The Registry's situational overview of Uganda, covering the period until 9 June 2025, including recent political developments, has been included as confidential Annex I to the present report for the information of the Trial Chamber.

IV. IDENTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

7. In the *Ongwen* reparations proceedings, responsibility for the identification and determination of victims' eligibility lies with VPRS. Pursuant to the Trial Chamber's guidance, the TFV is required to contact eligible victims within 30 days of VPRS' notification, for the purpose of informing them about the reparations programme.⁵

8. On 17 April 2025, VPRS transmitted to the TFV the eligibility and prioritisation assessment of a first batch of 549 participating victims assessed by VPRS as eligible for reparations in the present case and falling within the first priority category, i.e., vulnerable victims in dire need of urgent assistance. On 18 June 2025, VPRS transmitted the second batch of 92 eligible participating victims. This second transmission covered all applications that no longer have outstanding issues, including 31 victims falling in the first priority category and 61 deceased victims falling in the fourth priority category for whom the resumptions of action are complete.

9. The dossiers of these victims were transmitted together with an Excel table reflecting the assessment and information available to the VPRS at the time.

10. Given that the VPRS has not yet notified the victims of their eligibility, the TFV has not yet initiated contact.

11. Once the victims have been notified of their eligibility by VPRS, the TFV will proceed to contact the beneficiaries, as required.

12. In parallel, the TFV and VPRS have developed a protocol for engagement with beneficiaries in the present case, to govern interactions with beneficiaries during the notification of eligibility and throughout the implementation period.

⁵ Reparations Order, para. 10.

V. PROGRAMMATIC DEVELOPMENT

13. The TFV is currently in the preparatory phase of the programme. This phase seeks to operationalise the measures contained in the TFV's Approved Implementation Plan.

14. Since the issuance of the Reparations Order, the TFV has undertaken multi-phased programme preparation, including two analytical retreat sessions, the first following the issuance of the order, and the second following the extensive consultations with victims and other stakeholders conducted between April and August 2024. Additional sessions to consider the programmatic framework have since taken place to shape the concrete implementation of the programme, including a Programme Charter and key performance indicators.

15. While the DIP included high-level information on the reparations programme to be implemented in the present case, the TFV has continued to develop the narrative of the programme framework and key performance indicators into a Programme Charter. The Programme Charter is an innovation in the TFV practice which seeks to consolidate in a single document the governance, scope, objectives, and stakeholders of a Programme to serve as a reference point for information, decision-making, and documentation for all participants and stakeholders. The Programme Charter integrates a description of all aspects of the programme ensuring alignment and knowledge management. The Charter seeks to improve on past practice by providing a single point of access that facilitates effective knowledge transfer and organisational learning. The TFV considers the Charter to be an adequate and necessary complement to the schematic format adopted by the Trial Chamber in the *Ongwen* Reparations Order for the purposes of the Approved Implementation Plan.

16. To inform the granular design of activities, in December 2024, the TFV engaged the collaborative expert network specialising in narrative research Voices that Count to conduct a "baseline evaluation" to collect stories of the experiences from a sample of 1,002 potentially eligible victims, who were not consulted as part of the consultations that took place with potentially eligible victims between April and June 2024. The baseline study used the "SenseMaker" methodology, a narrative enquiry tool designed to capture often intangible cultural patterns, beliefs, and lived experiences to centre them in the programme design. Aside from its primary purpose of serving as a baseline study on the current situation, experiences, and needs of victims resulting from the crimes for which Mr Ongwen was convicted (see below section on Baseline Evaluation), the study enabled the TFV to collect more granular data on the victims' current status, experiences, and expectations to assist in designing a programme fully responsive to the harm suffered by the victims and their current situation.

17. The questionnaire upon which the study was conducted is included in Annex II to the present filing. The questionnaire was developed by the TFV and Voices that Count, and in consultation with VPRS and PIOS.

18. After the collection of stories, the TFV conducted a workshop in collaboration with Voices that Count in Gulu with representatives from local civil society organisations, government representatives, non-governmental organisations, academia, cultural institutions, transitional justice practitioners, and ICC stakeholders, including the TFV, VPRS, and PIOS to reflect and analyse victims' stories, enhancing understanding and meaning of victims' experiences and needs. Thereafter, stakeholders provided recommendations that could inform further development and shaping of the reparations programme.

19. The outcomes of the study and the workshop are contained in the "Report on the Ongwen Reparations Baseline Data Collection Initiative", annexed hereto as Annex III for the Trial Chamber's information.

VI. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

20. The Trial Chamber approved the following measures as part of the *Ongwen* reparations programme: 1) a participatory mechanism to ensure victim participation throughout the design and delivery of reparations;⁶ 2) delivery of collective community-based physical, psychological, and socio-economic rehabilitation measures, collective community-based symbolic and satisfaction measures;⁷ and 3) delivery of a symbolic payment of €750 to each eligible direct and indirect victim that were not subject to the DIP.⁸ This section describes the progress made in these areas:

a. PARTICIPATORY MECHANISM

21. As central to the reparations programme, the Approved Implementation Plan includes a participatory mechanism to enable victims to be engaged in the implementation process through their active and meaningful participation.

22. Following the approval by the Chamber of the Plan, in February and May 2025, the TFV began consultations on the set up of the participatory mechanism in Gulu with approximately 65 victims selected from across the four case locations of Abok, Odek, Lukodi, and Pajule as well as thematic crimes victims.

⁶ Decision on the DIP, para. 43.

⁷ *Ibid.*, paras 53, 59, 74.

⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 37; Reparations Order, para. 664.

23. Participants were selected through reference by contact persons in each of the four case locations, who were requested to identify within their communities two representatives from each parish, ensuring equal gender representation.

24. The participants were divided in two categories: 10 representatives representing thematic crimes victims, 5 representatives of Victims' Associations made up of and supporting returnees from Watye Ki Gen and the Women's Advocacy Network (WAN); and, 50 representatives from case locations (20 from Pajule, and 10 for Lukodi, Abok, and Odek respectively).

25. Across the consultations, the group was requested to provide input into the design of the proposed participatory mechanism *i.e.* the proposal to constitute committees to represent the victims across the case locations as well as victims of thematic crimes. The aim of the consultation was to understand the victims' views on the suitability, purpose, and design of the representative committees as part of the participatory mechanism, the role and function of the representative committees, and the logistical arrangements and resources required to enable their operation. The first session took place in February where participants were subsequently requested to consult within their communities on how to set up the committees, governance structures, and other practice requirements, and in May, the second session enabled participants to report back on the feedback received. The next consultation session is planned for November 2025.

26. The meetings were organised such that victims met in plenary as well as in small groups pertaining to each of the four case locations, as well as for thematic crimes, allowing their input to have direct relevance to their respective locations and situations.

27. *Victims' committees:* Participants proposed that representative committees should be constituted without delay. On the role and function of victims' committees, the participants put forth the following.

28. *Design and delivery of reparations measures:* On the role and functions of the committees, participants proposed that the committees could aid in the design and delivery of reparations measures, given that rehabilitation and symbolic and satisfaction measures would need to be further defined by the victims they intend to address, proposing for example that victims could take the lead in implementing community-based measures with the support of the TFV to promote their agency, healing, and recovery.

29. *Information sharing and clarification of processes to ensure smooth implementation:* Participants proposed that the committees would facilitate information sharing and clarification

on the implementation of reparations measures. Given the large number of potentially eligible victims for reparations in this case, the participants proposed that the committees would serve the purpose of providing updated information on the implementation of the reparations order and the status of implementation, as well as keeping victims informed of the roles and responsibilities of various actors (ICC stakeholders including the TFV, VPRS, and PIOS as well as non-ICC related eligibility processes and interactions) within the reparations process. Participants expressed that victims' knowledge of their context and communities could ensure that they suggest the most appropriate modalities for the delivery of the measures, and that the communication function of the committees could enable that the larger community of victims remain informed on the progress of the implementation and promote efficient implementation.

30. *Link between victims, the TFV, and local leadership:* Participants suggested that committee meetings could serve as a platform to exchange on the process between the key actors, including guaranteeing information flow amongst the victims and the TFV, as well as exchange with local and cultural leadership structures which are integral in the implementation of reparations measures.

31. *Feedback provision:* Participants raised that the committees could contribute to the monitoring and oversight of the implementation process by raising concerns and challenges on the process and making suggestions on strategies to address the concerns and challenges.

32. *Risk management:* It was additionally noted that committees could help to identify, anticipate, communicate, and respond to security risks arising out of the implementation process.

33. *Conflict resolution:* Consulted groups indicated that the role of the committee would also include conflict resolution and mediations at household levels and among reparations recipients arising from their participation in the process.

34. To fulfil these roles, the participants identified the following functions: (i) holding regular briefings with the larger community of victims, to update them on implementation; (ii) collecting feedback from victims on any challenges in implementation from the experience of beneficiaries and/or developments in their locations; (iii) assisting with mapping in communities and verification of beneficiaries.

35. *Composition, structure, and governance:* Participants indicated that the committees representing the case locations may require varying structures and membership numbers, due to the community's circumstances. For larger locations, participants proposed that at least 2 representatives could be nominated per parish location. The one exception to this was in Lukodi,

where the attack was limited to a particular village; in this case, representatives could be nominated as per sub-villages.

36. There was general consensus that local and cultural leaders could be represented on the committee for purposes of enhancing implementation and addressing any logistical or security issues that arise that need their intervention. Further, several members felt that the composition should be diverse to include men, women, and elders, while there was mixed support for the inclusion of youth.

37. When asked about the composition of the committee membership, many participants felt that membership should be mixed to include case-victims and non-case victims, but who suffered harm during the LRA war and who come from the case locations (as compared new comers who migrated to the case locations since the time of the attacks). The rationale for this was to avoid generating tensions between different categories of victims in their community. There was an overwhelming recognition of common harms suffered and an expressed solidarity for their conditions.

38. As to the committee members' term, there was consensus that two years was a reasonable amount of time for them to serve. At the end of these first two years, the victims can decide if they would want to limit membership of the committee going forward only to case-victims registered for reparations, at which time victim registration for reparations would have been completed.

39. With respect to the question of representation and participation of the larger victim community, the thematic crimes victim group clearly articulated a system that the other groups agreed to, stating that members should hold meetings with the wider victim community periodically to update on the process, as well as to be on call if a security issue/incident occurs in connection with the delivery of measures to a victim. They can produce reports quarterly on their role, the meetings held, and the feedback received. This supports accountability/transparency and can serve as a basis for evaluation for renewal of their mandate at the end of their term. While this group largely agreed with the proposals made by the groups from the four case locations, one element that was emphasized was the 'do no harm' principle and the importance of the committee to monitor and ensure that the reparations measures are being implemented according to this principle and not putting the security of the victims/the community in danger or creating conditions of additional vulnerability. This group also suggested that two victims' organisations will have representations in the committee. This is because the victims' organisations have been key in creating databases of all returnees and have worked with them on many small projects in the past in addition to the fact that they are run by

former abductees. It was also noted that although these representatives may not be from the Sinia brigade, they understand the experiences of abductees.

40. *Selection:* On the selection and appointment of committee members, participants discussed the qualities required for membership on the committee – trustworthiness, flexibility, upholding principles of non-discrimination, humility, respect, accessibility to their constituency, upholding confidentiality, among others. In the discussion on selection, participants considered nomination of names and community member vote.

41. *Governance:* A code of conduct was also proposed to be put in place to ensure ethical behaviour while serving as a committee member and that a particular procedure be introduced for the replacement of members when necessary, whether due to misconduct, death, illness, or relocation. A probationary period was also suggested before members are confirmed for a specific period.

42. *Resources, risks, and mitigation:* Participants were asked about logistical and potential security risks of the implementation of the participatory mechanism, and in response noted that committees should establish transparent and open communication with local leaders to ensure their existence, role, and functions are known, and to ensure smooth engagement with the communities, including by addressing any security concerns that may emerge as they arise.

43. *Thematic crime victims:* Participants in this group acknowledged the difficulty in identifying actual victims, particularly within the Sinia brigade. The group emphasised the importance of a code of conduct and proposed that committee membership include victims of the case, representatives from the two victims' organisations, and possibly local leaders or other relevant stakeholders.

44. *Case locations:* Each case location maintained detailed minutes of parish-level meetings. On the code of conduct and membership criteria, participants shared expectations and ethical guidelines for committee members, and procedures for joining and exiting the committee, as well as setting out the obstacles in the formation and functioning of the committees.

45. Participants also agreed to generate names of potential committee members and insisted on a probationary period for committee members.

46. *Next steps:* Participants agreed that a follow-up meeting would be held in November, where the TFV's role in supporting these groups will be discussed in addition to further consultation on the structure, governance, and composition of the committees as well as the

logistical support required to support their functioning. Other next steps include the generation by participants of potential names of committee members.

47. On the basis of outcomes of the participatory workshops, it was agreed that the TFV would prepare zero drafts of various documentation including a code of conduct and terms of reference for the committees, to be validated and discussed by the community in November.

b. COMMUNITY-BASED MEASURES AND SYMBOLIC PAYMENT

48. The Approved Implementation Plan includes physical, psychological, and socio-economic rehabilitation measures as part of the rehabilitation component of the reparations programme,⁹ as well as memorialisation, community-healing, countering stigma measures as part of the symbolic and satisfaction component of the reparations programme.¹⁰ Trial Chamber IX included a symbolic payment of €750 for each eligible direct and indirect victim as part of the collective community-based reparations ordered in the present case. This modality of reparations is not mentioned in the Approved Implementation Plan, as instructed in the Order, but forms part of the Programme and it is contained in the Programme Charter.

i. PREPARATORY STEPS FOR SYMBOLIC PAYMENT

49. Preparation for the implementation of the symbolic payment is part of preparation for programme implementation. Key factors for the TFV at this stage include to: a) determine the most appropriate method for the execution of these payments, b) conduct the risk assessment and mitigation measures for all relevant methods, and c) design the accompanying measures to the delivery of the symbolic payment in line with the ‘victim-centred approach’ and ‘do no harm’ reparation principles.

50. In addressing these matters, the TFV is mindful of the views expressed by victims, local authorities, religious and cultural leaders, and civil society organisations. These stakeholders have consistently underscored the need to ensure flexibility in delivery depending on the individual circumstances of each victim, the concerns of victims about security, and the desire for the TFV to offer financial planning and literacy services, as appropriate. In line with the need for flexibility and the request for accompanying measures raised in the consultations, the TFV has continued its preparation for the implementation of this modality, alongside fundraising efforts, by (i) taking stock of its institutional cash delivery practice and experience, and (ii) engaging cash delivery expertise to conduct a thorough comparison of delivery methods and to advise on any improvements needed to the TFV’s policies for cash delivery.

⁹ Decision on the DIP, paras 44-66.

¹⁰ Decision on the DIP, paras 67-74.

51. Additionally, having regard to suggestions from victims during consultations regarding the need for discreet payment methods to mitigate security risks, the national Identity Card renewal campaign launched by the Government of Uganda on 27 May 2025 is regarded as a very positive development. Scheduled to run for six months, the campaign is particularly relevant, as possession of a National Identity Card is required for mobile phone SIM card registration and for opening bank accounts, both likely required for certain forms of payment under the reparations programme.

ii. INCLUSION OF URGENT NEEDS VICTIMS IN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

52. Between 2023 and 2024, the Uganda Assistance Programme incorporated victims in urgent need who were represented by the legal representatives in the *Ongwen* case. These victims were referred by the legal representatives of victims to the TFV's implementing partners, through coordination with the TFV. In total, 422 such victims were referred to the programme. Originally established as a five-year programme commencing on 4 April 2019, the assistance programme was extended by an additional year in 2024 to ensure the continuation of treatment services, with financial support from the Government of the Netherlands, through the Dutch Embassy in Kampala. Activities under the programme are now in the process of closure, as the TFV transitions to prioritising victims in dire need of urgent assistance within the framework of the reparations programme.

iii. PROCUREMENT

53. In order to deliver the reparative measures set out in the Reparations Order, and as noted in the Approved Implementation Plan, the TFV must engage organisations with the requisite technical expertise and contextual understanding to implement the programme effectively. The TFV has prioritised the design of a selection approach that reflects the principles of fairness, transparency, and inclusivity, particularly in reaching national and community-based actors.

54. As reported in the submission of the DIP, the TFV had published, in 2021, a Request for Expressions of Interest for the *Ongwen* reparations programme. This initial publication was intended to identify organisations potentially eligible to implement reparations measures, in anticipation of the Reparations Order. Following the issuance of that Order in 2024, and in order to ensure that the call was fully aligned with its content and requirements, the TFV annulled the earlier expression of interest and closed the associated procurement process. A revised Request for Expressions of Interest was subsequently issued on 11 June 2024.¹¹

¹¹ <https://www.icc-cpi.int/get-involved/expressions-of-interest>

55. The updated call was widely disseminated both online and within Uganda to ensure broad accessibility and inclusive participation, including from national and grassroots organisations. It was shared through the TFV and ICC websites, the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM), Devex, and newspaper advertisements in Uganda. The expression of interest remained open until 1 October 2024, with an extended deadline to encourage a broad and diverse range of submissions.

56. As of the date of this submission, the TFV has been in the process of constituting the Technical Evaluation Committee, which will be responsible for reviewing the 35 submissions received. Over the past months, the TFV has also established internal procedures to guide the evaluation and selection process, ensuring consistency with applicable procurement standards and the core principles of impartiality, transparency, and accountability.

57. Once the Technical Evaluation Committee has been established and the review process completed, shortlisted candidates will be formally notified. A finalised Scope of Work, developed in line with the Programme Charter and informed by the findings of the recent Baseline Evaluation, including relevant KPIs, will be disseminated by the Registry among the pre-selected organisations. The TFV will organise preparatory workshops to support partners in the development of their full proposals. In parallel, it will assess whether targeted additional procurement processes may be required to ensure full coverage of programme needs and capacities.

c. TRANSPORTATION FEES

58. As requested by the Chamber, the TFV submits the following with respect to the question of whether transportation fees for beneficiaries to access the programme will be covered by the TFV.¹²

59. The TFV recalls that victims' accessibility to reparations is crucial, as is alluded to in the principle of adopting a victim-centred approach to reparations.¹³ Ensuring that victims can meaningfully benefit from reparations is fundamental to the credibility and effectiveness of the programme.

60. In line with such, the TFV routinely integrates measures in its programmes to facilitate access, tailored to the specific context and informed by cost-effectiveness and feasibility analyses.

¹² Decision on the DIP, para. 15, disposition.

¹³ See e.g., Reparations Order, para. 71(iv); See also e.g., *Ntaganda* Reparations Order, 8 March 2021, [ICC-01/04-02/06-2659](#), paras 45-46, 103.

61. The *Ongwen* programme, as outlined in the Approved Implementation Plan, envisions the delivery of services as close as possible to beneficiaries' locations. This approach seeks to reduce the time, costs, and potential risks associated with transportation, in accordance with the 'do no harm' principle. It also enhances the overall impact and efficiency of the programme by limiting the burden on victims.

62. To ensure accessibility within the *Ongwen* programme, the TFV foresees the need to adopt a diverse set of strategies. For example, in the case of medical treatment, implementing partners may organise group transportation to and from hospital facilities, drawing on models previously used in the Uganda assistance programme. In developing the specificities of each aspect of the programme, transportation costs will be explicitly addressed and reflected in the Programme Charter. In other TFV reparations programmes, where implementing partners organise such transport, the associated expenses are considered costs of programme implementation. Where direct implementation by the TFV proves more cost-effective, such options will also be considered.

63. These investments in accessibility, such as transportation, will necessarily be balanced against other programme requirements, including quality assurance, security, and sustainability considerations. The TFV remains committed to pursuing solutions that upholds accessibility while ensuring the responsible and effective use of available resources.

VII. MONITORING, EVALUATION, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

i. FEEDBACK MECHANISM

64. In submitting the DIP, the TFV proposed a feedback mechanism to be implemented together with the Registry alongside each measure of the reparations programme. The aim of the feedback mechanism was to enable beneficiaries to directly request information, provide feedback, ask questions, and convey complaints.¹⁴

65. In its observations, the Registry put forth its support of the feedback mechanism, noting that it "stands ready to collaborate with the TFV in its design and implementation" and proposing that the mechanism be (i) centralised and independent, (ii) cover all actors involved at the reparations stage including the Registry, the Legal Representatives of Victims ("LRVs"), and the intermediaries of all actors involved; and (iii) be available in relation to all reparations

¹⁴ Draft Implementation Plan, 4 September 2024, [ICC-02/04-01/15-2099-Anx](#), pp. 2, 7 (hereinafter: DIP).

measures implemented in the case and throughout the entire duration of the implementation phase of those measures.¹⁵

66. The Chamber approved the feedback mechanism, concurring that the mechanism should be independent, cover all actors involved in the implementation of reparations, and be available in relation to all reparations' measures, instructing the TFV and Registry to safeguard the confidentiality of victims' information and to ensure cost-effective design of the mechanism.¹⁶

67. As part of the institutional collaborative efforts, the TFV and Registry have continued to engage on the feedback mechanism, and a protocol governing its use is currently being drafted. The timely development of this system is critical in light of recurring reports of individuals falsely claiming to collect application forms in exchange for money. Ongoing outreach efforts have sought to address this issue by consistently emphasising that the identification process, including the completion and submission of application forms, is entirely free of charge. Nonetheless, reports of such incidents persist, underscoring the need for a robust and accessible system to protect victims and reinforce trust in the process.

ii. BASELINE EVALUATION

68. Evaluations throughout the programmatic cycle will be critical to ensuring the ongoing effectiveness and relevance of the reparations programme in the *Ongwen* case. Subject to the availability of funding, these evaluations will include baseline, mid-term, and final assessments to monitor progress and inform necessary adjustments.

69. For the *Ongwen* case, the baseline evaluation framework has been developed through the Baseline Survey, referenced above in paragraph 16, providing a solid foundation for future evaluations and contributing to the overall impact of the programme.

70. The data collected serves as a reference point against which progress will be measured and evaluated throughout the programme implementation. The Baseline Survey offers a nuanced understanding of the current situation of victims, highlights specific gaps across different groups (by location, thematic category, and the next generation group), and provides valuable insights to guide the development of a culturally and gender-sensitive programme.

71. *Mid-term evaluation:* Midway through the implementation, the TFV plans to conduct out a mid-term evaluation to identify challenges, successes, and areas of improvements. This

¹⁵ Registry's Observations on the Trust Fund for Victims Draft Implementation Plan, 3 October 2024, [ICC-02/04-01/15-2104](#), para. 15.

¹⁶ Decision on the DIP, para. 77.

will enable timely adjustments to ensure that the programme achieves its long-term goal and maximize impact.

72. *End-of-programme evaluation:* At the conclusion of implementation, the TFV intends to carry out a comprehensive evaluation to assess the overall success and impact of the programme, extract lessons learned, and inform future reparation programmes. The end-of-programme evaluation will also assess the extent to which the programme achieved its intended goals and objectives, identify factors that contributed to its success or failure, and provide recommendations for improvements or replication.

VIII. COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

73. *Interaction with Uganda authorities:* The TFV has continued to collaborate with the Government of Uganda through the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Northern Uganda Rehabilitation. Through this engagement, an *ad hoc* committee comprising representation from several Ministries, Departments and Agency (MDA) of Government has been formed to further discussion on information sharing about the *Ongwen* reparations implementation.

74. *Interaction with civil society and others:* The TFV has maintained and further build on its close ties with civil society. Accordingly, as part of the Baseline Evaluation, the TFV conducted a workshop in collaboration with Voices that Count in Gulu with representatives from local civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, academia, cultural institutions, transitional justice practitioners, and ICC stakeholders, including the TFV, VPRS, and PIOS. The workshop provided the opportunity for the participants to use their expertise to discuss and analyse the outcome of the study. This participatory process added interpretive depth, surfaced additional meanings, and collaboratively identified key implications for the design of a successful reparation programme.

75. *Interaction with the ICC Registry:* As part of cooperative institutional efforts, the TFV, VPRS, and PIOS continue to collaborate closely throughout the implementation of the reparations in the present case, in particular through a) meetings every other month to appraise each other of developments in the eligibility, notification, transmission, and public information and outreach fields, as well as on the progress of reparations design and implementation, and b) ongoing appraisal of each other's activities among relevant staff in the Country Office.

IX. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

76. The TFV has pursued a comprehensive communications and visibility strategy to support the implementation of the Reparations Order in the present case.

77. The strategy has aimed to inform stakeholders and the public about key developments in the implementation of the reparations to generate support for the TFV's urgent appeals for voluntary contributions and amplify the voices of victims.

78. On 27 June 2024, the TFV issued its First Urgent Funding Appeal of EUR 5 million, which was likewise disseminated widely through its online platforms and social media channels. The appeal was also replicated by a number of prominent media outlets, including The Independent (Uganda), New Vision, The Star (Kenya), and All Africa.

79. The TFV issued on 11 April 2025 a statement "ICC Trust Fund for Victims Welcomes the End of the Judicial Reparations Phase in the Ongwen Case" across platforms and social media channels, including Facebook, LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter), and BlueSky, in both English and French.

80. The TFV participated in numerous public events and high-level engagements to raise visibility. These engagements were promoted across the TFV's social media channels and included a Transitional Justice Workshop in Gulu on 9 August 2024, co-organised with ICTJ, Avocats Sans Frontières, and GWED-G, which brought together over 80 civil society actors and victim groups; the International Justice Seminar held on 5 September 2024 in The Hague, co-hosted by the British Embassy and the TFV, focused on the impact of reparations on victims of sexual and gender-based violence; a luncheon hosted on 12 November 2024 by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kampala with Ugandan government officials and members of the diplomatic community; the TFV's community consultations conducted on 28 February 2025 in Northern Uganda, in collaboration with its implementing partners AVSI Foundation and HealthRight International; and the aforementioned SenseMaker baseline study workshop held in Gulu on 24-28 March 2025 in partnership with Voices That Count and supported by the Embassies of the Netherlands and Ireland.

81. To promote broader understanding of the TFV's mission and the Reparations Order, the Executive Director participated in a number of interviews with traditional media and podcasts that have resulted in editorial and full length articles covering the Reparations Order including in CGTN Africa (Uganda) on 8 July 2024, The Star (Kenya) on 16 August 2024, The Guardian (UK) on 1 November 2024, NBS Uganda on 15 November 2024, the "Die Kulturmittler:innen" podcast by ifa, released on 10 December 2024, and the "Horsehair Wigs" podcast by the Irish Rule of Law International, aired in December 2024.

82. *Consultation Report*: Pursuant to regulation 70 of the TFV Regulations and as instructed by the Chamber in the Reparations Order,¹⁷ the TFV consulted with the victims on the nature of the collective community-based awards and the methods of implementation, which were integrated into the DIP in full. Consultations with potentially eligible victims of the crimes for which Mr Ongwen was convicted were conducted by the TFV between 30 April and 26 June 2024, including both potentially eligible participating and non-participating victims, and in line with the principles on reparations; namely, the ‘do no harm’ principle, guaranteeing accessibility and meaningful participation of victims, respecting their diversity as to their particular needs and interests, including gender-specific considerations, and taking into account any obstacles victims may face in coming forward and expressing their views.¹⁸ As noted by the TFV, a wide variety of views and concerns were expressed by the potentially eligible victims during the consultations.¹⁹ A non-exhaustive summary of the consultations was provided in the cover filing to the TFV and fully integrated into the proposed DIP.²⁰

83. In parallel, the TFV has prepared a report on the outcome of the consultations in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the consulted potentially eligible victims’ views and concerns on the ordered reparations, including the symbolic payments, the preferred measures, and other considerations to take into account when designing and implementing the programme. The dissemination of the victims views is also considered essential to make visible their plights, to mobilise financial support to the programme, and to assist national authorities and other entities working with victims to integrate their views in their own programming. An unformatted version of the Consultation Report is included as Annex I to the present filing for the information of the Chamber. Activities for the dissemination of a formatted version will be reported in the next filing.

X. FUND MOBILISATION AND RESOURCES

84. In submitting the DIP, the TFV Board of Directors committed to mobilising the resources needed to complement in full or to the maximum extent possible the Reparations Order.²¹ In doing so, the TFV Board of Directors underscored the common responsibility of the TFV, the Court and the States Parties in ensuring the integral, timely and high quality implementation of the Reparations Order, and recognised the importance of the call made by

¹⁷ Reparations Order, para. 799.

¹⁸ DIP Cover filing, para 18-20.

¹⁹ DIP Cover filing, para. 25.

²⁰ *Idem*.

²¹ Trust Fund for Victims’ submission of DIP, para. 31.

the Trial Chamber in the Reparations Order, on states and other donors for voluntary contributions to complement the payment of the reparations award.²²

85. The success in mobilising resources for the *Ongwen* Programme relies on both institutional fund mobilisation capacity of the TFV as well as on dedicated and focused efforts in relation to the *Ongwen* programme.

i. INSTITUTIONAL FUND MOBILISATION EFFORTS

86. In relation to institutional efforts, in September 2024, the TFV Board of Directors approved the framework of the fundraising strategy (TFV Fund Mobilisation Strategy) that was prepared by the Executive Director based on a review of the TFV Secretariat's capacities.

87. The TFV Fund Mobilisation Strategy considers the need of a dedicated capacity, not previously existing within the STFV to implement the strategy. The proposed capacity was considered and recommended by the Committee on Budget and Finance in their October 2024 recommendations to the Assembly of States Parties. Engagement and dialogue with States Parties took place towards the annual session of the Assembly resulting in the approval of three new posts (1,84 FTE in total) requested to fund a resource mobilisation team within the TFV Secretariat. The recruitment of the new positions is ongoing at the time of the report. The existence of a dedicated team for fundraising will ensure that efforts be planned, systematic, and professional allowing the TFV to identify, seize, and be responsive to opportunities for resource mobilisation. The process of securing support to the resources of the STFV also contributed to galvanise support and consensus on the importance of delivering the reparative mandate of the ICC.

88. At its September 2024 session, the Committee on Budget and Finance also recommended the TFV to develop a strategic and transparent fundraising strategy, which includes effective measurements to assess achievements. The TFV is also advised to engage with all potential stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of funding for reparations. In line with these recommendations, the TFV requested the Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties to facilitate such consultations in 2025 on the TFV's fundraising strategy. This proposal was adopted by the Assembly and reflected in the Omnibus resolution adopted at the Assembly's 23rd session in December 2024.

89. To enhance understanding of the TFV strategy and enhance support to the implementation of reparation programmes, at the 23rd session of the Assembly, the TFV also organised a side-event focusing on fund mobilisation strategies for reparations, which discussed

²² *Ibid.*, para. 32.

views from various experts including from the Court on asset recovery, States Parties-donor countries, private sector, like-minded international organisations, and civil society organisations.

90. In relation to the strategy, at its fifth meeting in February 2025, the Bureau of the Assembly appointed Ambassador Vusimuzi Madonsela (South Africa) as a facilitator of the Working Group on the Trust Fund for Victims. The mandate of the facilitation includes follow up to IER recommendations, and consultations on the fundraising strategy of the TFV. The first meeting with the States Parties took place on 20 May 2025. Inputs received from States Parties and other stakeholders will be incorporated into the Strategy, which will set the objectives for the TFV on fund mobilisation as part of the ICC Strategic Plan 2026-2029.

91. Efforts for fund mobilisation as a result of the implementation of this strategy are expected in the mid-term only. To project results it is also essential to acknowledge the recent drastic changes in development funding world-wide, which will affect the feasibility of increased contributions to the TFV.

92. Despite this challenge, as part of the development of the fundraising and management plans, the TFV is actively working to diversify its donor base and explore new funding streams, such as European Commission and individual donations as well as strengthening partnerships with existing supporters. The TFV is also significantly increasing its visibility, demonstrating impact and results of its activities through more strategic communications, external relations and participation to events, which are essential to maintaining donors and prospects' confidence and interest in the TFV. In this regard, the project of the new website of the TFV as part of the TFV Communications Strategy is under implementation.

b. ONGWEN-PROGRAMME SPECIFIC MOBILISATION EFFORTS

93. Since they were seized by the issuance of the Reparations Order, the TFV Board of Directors has remained informed of the activities undertaken in the development of the programme. An urgent funding appeal was issued on 27 June 2024 to initiate the reparations programme.

94. *Mission to Uganda in 2024:* In November 2024, the TFV conducted a mission to Uganda during which a series of meetings were held with the representatives of the Government of Uganda at the ministerial level, and several potential donors at the embassy level. These engagements served to provide a comprehensive briefing on the Reparations Order, while also exploring how the programme aligns with the donors' respective external funding priorities. Follow-up actions are currently underway to build on these initial discussions.

95. *Pledges:* In the context of a side event at the Assembly of States Parties in December 2024, the Ugandan delegation pledged its support for the reparations efforts and announced steps are underway to provide a financial contribution in the third quarter of 2025. Efforts to follow up on this commitment are ongoing.

96. *Resource mobilisation efforts in 2025:* The TFV continued its resource mobilisation efforts through bilateral and regional meetings held at headquarters and in Uganda, as well as through participation in a range of high-level events. From January to mid-June 2025, the TFV engaged at the diplomatic level with States Parties and other stakeholders, holding over 50 bilateral meetings. These included official engagements with approximately 30 States Parties across five regions, nine meetings with United Nations mechanisms, and six meetings with European Union entities, including the EU Council, the European Parliament, the European External Action Service, and the European Commission. The TFV also met with the African Union.

97. During these engagements, the TFV underlined the urgent need for financial contributions to support the implementation of reparations in the *Ongwen* case. TFV representatives presented the programme's design and objectives, thereby increasing visibility of the reparative measures and fostering understanding and support among the international community.

i. FUNDING STATUS

98. In 2024, the TFV received a total of EUR 5.7 million in voluntary contributions, the highest amount in the history, constituting a 7% increase from the previous year. Within this amount, 1% (EUR 5,700) came from private individuals contributing from within the Court or via the TFV's PayPal account. In 2024, 30 States Parties provided voluntary contributions to the TFV, one less donor country from 2023 when the maximum number of states contributed to the TFV in a single year. No contributions in 2024, or so far in 2025 have been earmarked to the *Ongwen* Reparation Programme. Resources available to the TFV will be allocated by the Board of Directors to reparation programmes in July 2025. The Board of Directors will need to balance the needs of programmes currently under implementation and near completion such as *Al Mahdi* and *Former Child Soldiers (Lubanga/Ntaganda)* with the needs in programmes awaiting resources to start implementation, such as *Ntaganda Victims of the Attack* and *Ongwen*.

99. The TFV will continue to keep the Trial Chamber apprised of developments on fund mobilisation, allocated resources, and any decision on complement and inform the Trial

Chamber and the victims of a potential start date of the programme as soon as such information becomes available.²³

XI. REPORTING SCHEDULE TO THE TRIAL CHAMBER

100. As requested by the Trial Chamber,²⁴ and in accordance with regulation 58 of the TFV Regulations, the TFV proposes to report on the progress of the implementation of reparations every six months. Biannual reporting to the Trial Chamber in this initial period will ensure that it remains well-informed and updated throughout the programme's setup phase, ensuring that the reports are substantive and helpful to the Chamber and stakeholders.

101. The TFV considers that pursuant to its workplan, early May and November would be suitable months to submit its biannual report to the Trial Chamber. The TFV therefore proposes that the next report is submitted on 5 November 2025, with the following report to be submitted six months after, on 5 May 2026. The TFV respectfully seeks the Chamber's permission to file by midnight on the filing date, in light of its numerous overlapping obligations, and taking into account the character of the TFV filings pursuant to regulation 58 of the TFV Regulations, which do not create timelines for parties or participants to respond.

102. In the event that an issue requiring immediate resolution appears in the course of implementation, the TFV will inform the Trial Chamber forthwith, regardless of the deadline for the submission of its update report.

103. Should changing circumstances so require, the TFV intends to seize the Chamber with a view to ensuring the timely and substantive provision of information relevant to the Chamber and stakeholders, through a reconsideration of the reporting schedule.

104. Given the scope of the programme, the TFV expects to submit the necessary information as concisely as possible within a page limit not exceeding 30 pages. Setting such a page limit from the start is in accordance with administrative and judicial economies.

²³ As instructed in Decision on the DIP, para. 14, disposition.

²⁴ As instructed in Decision on the DIP, para. 79, disposition.

IN CONCLUSION,

105. The TFV respectfully requests the Trial Chamber to take note of the present report and the request set out in paragraph 101 and stands ready to provide clarifications on any information provided therein or on any other issue affecting the implementation phase of reparations in the present case.



Deborah Ruiz Verduzco
Executive Director, Trust Fund for Victims

Dated this 18th of June 2025

At The Hague, The Netherlands