

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**

**International
Criminal
Court**



Original: **English**

No.: **ICC-01/13**

Date: **18 March 2020**

PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER I

Before: Judge Péter Kovács, Presiding Judge
Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut
Judge Reine Adélaïde Sophie Alapini-Gansou

**SITUATION ON REGISTERED VESSELS OF THE UNION OF THE COMOROS,
THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC OF GREECE AND THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

Public Document

**Response of the Government of the Comoros to the “Prosecution’s Urgent Request
for Extension of Time” dated 16 March 2020**

Source: Rodney Dixon QC, and Stoke & White LLP (London) on behalf of the
Government of the Union of the Comoros

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

The Office of the Prosecutor
Ms Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor

Counsel for the Defence

Legal Representatives of Victims
Mr Rodney Dixon QC
Ms Haydee Dijkstal

Legal Representatives of the Applicant

Unrepresented Victims

**Unrepresented Applicants for
Participation/Reparation**

The Office of Public Counsel for Victims
Ms Paolina Massidda

**The Office of Public Counsel for the
Defence**

States Representatives
Mr Rodney Dixon QC
Ms Haydee Dijkstal

Amicus Curiae

REGISTRY

Registrar
Mr Peter Lewis

Defence Support Section

Victims and Witnesses Unit

Detention Section

**Victims Participation and Reparations
Section**

Other

Response of the Government of the Comoros to the Prosecution Request

1. Counsel for the Government of the Union of the Comoros ('the Comoros'), hereby respond to the "Prosecution's Urgent Request for Extension of Time" dated 16 March 2020.¹ This response is filed pursuant to Regulation 24 and Regulation 34(b) of the Regulations of the Court.
2. The Government of the Comoros supports the request of the Prosecution for "an extension of time for the filings of all parties and participants in this situation" and for an amendment of "all the deadlines to fall approximately one month from the dates on which they are presently due."² In light of the global COVID-18 pandemic, and the measures it has required the Prosecution³ and all other parties to take in order to safeguard the health and safety of all staff and personnel, the Government of the Comoros acknowledges the logistical difficulties and strain on time and resources that the current situation causes. The Comoros emphasises that these measures equally affect all parties in the Situation.
3. It is submitted that the Prosecution has shown good cause to grant an extension of time to the schedule as set out by the Chamber on 6 March 2020,⁴ and it is respectfully requested that the Chamber grant an extension, as proposed by the Prosecution, to all parties and participants in the Situation, including the Government of the Comoros and all participating victims.
4. The Government of the Comoros further submits that the Prosecution's proposed extension of approximately one month is reasonable.⁵ The Comoros supports the dates suggested by the Prosecution for an amendment to the current scheduling order, such that the new deadlines for all parties would be amended as follows - "the legal representatives' observations are due on 4 May 2020 (because 3 May 2020 is a Sunday),

¹ Prosecution's Urgent Request for Extension of Time, ICC-01/13-102, 16 March 2020 (*hereinafter* "Prosecution Request"). It is noted for the record that although the Prosecution Request is dated 16 March 2020, it was only circulated to the parties by way of email which was received from CMS on 17 March at 11:04.

² Prosecution Request, para. 8.

³ Prosecution Request, paras. 3-6.

⁴ Order on the filing of responses and replies, ICC-01/13-101, 6 March 2020.

⁵ Prosecution Request, para. 8.

the Prosecution's response to the Comoros is due on 11 May 2020, and any reply by the Comoros to the Prosecution is due on 25 May 2020.”⁶

5. Accordingly, the Government of the Comoros requests that the Chamber grants the Prosecution's Request regarding an extension of the scheduled deadlines for all parties, and adopts the suggested new deadlines for all parties as set out in the Prosecution's Request at paragraph 3.



Rodney Dixon QC
Haydee Dijkstal

Counsel on behalf of the Government of the Union of the Comoros

Dated 18 March 2019
London

⁶ Prosecution Request, para. 3.