

# The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

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The Rome Statute established and governs the International Criminal Court (ICC), which sits in The Hague, Netherlands.

The ICC is a permanent international judicial body that is charged with the power to try individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression. The Rome Statute recognises the need to end impunity over crimes against humanity and gross violations of human rights which, by their threat to international peace and security, make them of the most serious concern to the international community. The court is designed to compliment national legal frameworks and exercise its jurisdiction in those cases where a state is unable or unwilling to prosecute.

The Court is composed of four organs: the Presidency, the Judicial Divisions, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry.

- The Presidency is responsible for the administration of the court and is composed of three elected judges who each serve a three-year term.
- The Judicial Divisions consist of 18 judges who are assigned to one of three divisions: Pre-Trial, Trial, or Appeals.

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- The Office of the Prosecutor is responsible for receiving information on crimes, which they examine and investigate. The Prosecutor heads the Office and is elected by states parties to the Rome Statute.
  - The Registry is responsible for all non-judicial aspects of the Court's administration.

The Court also has an Office of Public Counsel for Victims and an Office of Public Counsel for the Defence. The former provides support to victims to ensure their effective participation in court proceedings, and the latter represents and protects the rights of the Defence to enable a fair trial.