



**COVID-19 PANDEMIC RELATED SAFETY MEASURES
FOR MECHANISM'S COURT PROCEEDINGS
AT THE HAGUE BRANCH
*19 August 2020***

1. The purpose of this document is to identify key issues for facilitating court hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic situation.
2. The present protocol is not legally binding, but, rather, provides practical guidance to enable the preparations of the hearings.
3. The measures outlined herein supplement the "Back to Office Facilities Plan" prepared by the Mechanism's COVID-19 Management Team and circulated Mechanism-wide on 17 July 2020. The document is attached hereto for ease of reference. Please familiarise yourself with the document regarding the protocol for entry into the premises and movement therein.
4. A total of 21 court participants can be accommodated inside the courtroom adhering to strict social distancing measures. This includes the Judge(s), Parties, witnesses, Chamber's legal staff, accused/appellant, court officer/court usher ("court management"), court reporter, security officers. This figure does not include the interpreters and the audio-visual director in the surrounding booths; ad hoc technical assistants; or the backup court reporter in the Judges' waiting room.
5. Court participants shall provide court management a list of the respective designated staff for the upcoming hearings in advance.
6. Court management will provide the list of participants to the Medical Unit and to the Security and Safety Services Section ("Security") prior to the hearing, including the names of technical support staff, Judges' assistants and FMU support staff. The Medical Unit will e-mail to them a reminder related to the medical rules for the entry into the building.
7. The Security will ensure that the persons on this list are the only persons allowed to enter the courtroom at any time during the hearing day.
8. No interns will be permitted to sit inside the courtroom.
9. As part of the physical distancing requirements, only the required number of chairs and other equipment are made available inside the courtroom.
10. The interpreters' booths will only be occupied by one interpreter per booth. For that reason, four mobile interpreter booths have been installed in the public gallery.
11. All persons present in the courtroom are to respect the 1.5 metres physical distancing requirements.



12. All court participants shall ingress and egress the courtroom one at a time maintaining physical distance.
13. Movement inside the courtroom shall be kept to a minimum and restricted to essential movement only.
14. One additional security officer will be present inside the courtroom to monitor adherence to social distancing and other safety protocols.
15. In order to mitigate the risks of contamination any exchange of physical documents or items shall be carried out only if absolutely necessary, and with additional safety measures such as use of trays, sealed folders or packages.
16. Technical support personnel and court management staff assisting participants in court will be wearing PPE when in contact with other court participants.
17. The prohibition on bringing external food or drink inside the courtroom remains in force.
18. For the areas of the courtroom where social distancing is not possible, plexiglass screens have been erected to allow communication. Physical contact between the Accused/Appellant and Defence Counsel is prohibited to mitigate any risks of contamination. However, to preserve the Accused's right to privileged communication with counsel, the Registry has facilitated such communication by installing a telephone connection between Defence Counsel's desk and the Accused's desk inside the courtroom.
19. To further facilitate privileged communication between the Accused/Appellant and Defence Counsel during any breaks and prior to and after the hearing, a video-telephone connection has been established between the holding cell and the area behind the courtroom.
20. Sealed water bottles and disposable paper cups will be provided for the participants in the courtroom to mitigate any risk of contamination.
21. Hand sanitizers will be placed near all doors of the courtroom.
22. Court participants shall raise with court management at the earliest opportunity any concerns in relation to hygiene or physical distancing measures.
23. Court participants shall inform the court management should they be unable to operate within the parameters outlined herein.