

MLA Initiative – Presentation and state-of-play

The Initiative

The MLA Initiative is led by Argentina, Belgium, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Senegal and Slovenia (the “Core Group”) for the adoption of a Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes. States Parties to this Convention may declare that they also accept to extend the application of the Convention to other international crimes, such as the crimes of aggression, torture and forced disappearance, on the condition of reciprocity with other States Parties. Currently, the initiative is formally supported by 76 States around the globe.

The MLA Initiative aims to facilitate and strengthen inter- state cooperation, taking into account that it is the primary responsibility of all States to investigate and prosecute such crimes.

The Convention is to be adopted at a Diplomatic Conference to be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Diplomatic Conference originally scheduled to take place in June 2020 has been postponed to 2022.

Current draft Convention

The current draft Convention prepared by the Core Group is the result of international consultations among States and civil society in two Preparatory Conferences and one round of informal consultations that took place in The Netherlands in October 2017, March 2019 and January 2020, as well as written comments received from supporting States and civil society.

Please find attached the draft Convention

Way forward

Two rounds of additional virtual informal consultations will take place during 2021. Invitations/Save the date to these informal consultations are attached.

The first round of informal consultations will take place on the 22nd and 23rd of June 2021, and will focus on the chapters ‘General Provisions’, ‘Central Authorities and Communication’ on day 1 and ‘MLA’, and ‘Extradition’ on day 2.

The second round will take place on the 19th and 20th of October 2021, and will focus on the remaining chapters and other issues that may arise at the first round.

After the informal consultations the draft Convention will be reviewed by the Core Group and the final draft will be submitted as basis for negotiations to the 2022 Diplomatic Conference.

The virtual consultations and the Diplomatic Conference will be chaired by H.E. Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi.

In the meantime, the Core Group will continue to disseminate and promote the MLA Initiative with a view of ensuring wide support and understanding for the Convention.

More information regarding the MLA initiative is available through www.mla-initiative.com