



UNITED NATIONS
NATIONS UNIES



**International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
Tribunal Pénal International pour le Rwanda**

Arusha International Conference Centre

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**PRACTICE DIRECTION
ON LENGTH AND TIMING OF CLOSING BRIEFS
AND CLOSING ARGUMENTS**

In accordance with Rule 19 (B) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and having consulted with the Bureau, the Registrar and the Prosecutor, I issue this Practice Direction in order to establish a limit on the length of closing briefs and closing arguments and time standards for the completion of the final stages of trials and to ensure that uniform practices are followed and with a view to encouraging the parties as of the commencement of the trial to start preparing and, as the trial unfolds, to update their closing briefs and closing oral arguments in accordance with the standards set herein.

1. CLOSING BRIEFS

1.1 PAPER SIZE, FORMAT AND TYPEFACE

- (i) Briefs shall be submitted on A4 size paper. Margins shall be 2.5 centimeters on all four sides. All filings shall be paginated, excluding the cover sheet.
- (ii) The typeface of the main text shall be 12 point Times New Roman with 1.5 line spacing. An average page, excluding footnotes, shall contain no more than 300 words. The typeface of the footnotes shall be 10 point Times New Roman with single line spacing.

1.2 CONTENT OF BRIEFS

- (i) Briefs shall refer to relevant evidence by transcript references and to relevant case law by citations. Lengthy summaries of testimonies and exhibits and recitation in detail of applicable law should be avoided.
- (ii) Briefs shall include arguments on sentencing.

1.3 LENGTH

- (i) In single-accused trials, briefs shall not exceed 30,000 words.
- (ii) In multi-accused trials, Defence briefs shall not exceed 30,000 words each. The Prosecutor shall file a consolidated brief which shall not exceed 30,000 words for one accused and 20,000 words for each additional accused.
- (iii) In the event of site visits, the limit under (i) shall be expanded by 3,000 words and the limits under (ii) by 3,000 words for the Defence brief and by 2,000 words for each additional accused in the Prosecution Brief.

- (iv) Headings, footnotes and quotations shall count towards the above word limits.

1.4 APPENDICES

- (i) An appendix shall not count towards the above word limits.
- (ii) An appendix shall not contain factual or legal arguments, but rather references, source materials, items from the record, exhibits, and other relevant, non-argumentative material.
- (iii) An appendix shall be of reasonable length, on average no more than three times the maximum number of pages of the brief.
- (iv) Appendices compiled in English or French shall not be translated into, respectively, French or English. However, if available, translations shall be attached to the original appendix and shall not count towards the limits under (iii).

1.5 WORD COUNTS

Parties shall conduct a word count of their briefs and shall include this information in the form: “Word Count: _”, at the end of the brief before the signature line.

1.6 SIMULTANEOUS FILINGS

A single time limit for filing briefs shall be set, requiring the parties to file their briefs simultaneously.

2. ORAL ARGUMENTS

- (i) In single-accused trials, the duration of a party’s closing arguments shall not exceed three hours for the presentation, one hour for rebuttal and 20 minutes for rejoinder.
- (ii) In multi-accused trials, the Prosecutor shall have additional time equivalent to 2/3 of the time limits under (i) per additional accused.

3. TRANSLATIONS

- (i) At the commencement of the trial or, in trials that have commenced, at the earliest opportunity each party shall indicate whether its brief will be filed in English or French. The other party or parties shall indicate whether a translation into French or English is required.
- (ii) When translation is required, decisions setting the dates for filing of the closing briefs shall be copied to the Language Services Section so as to facilitate early planning.

4. TIMING

- (i) In single-accused trials, closing briefs shall be filed no later than 60 days after the closure of the evidence phase. In multi-accused trials, the time limit shall be 90 days.
- (ii) In the event of site visits, the time limit under (i) shall be extended by 14 days.
- (iii) The closing oral arguments shall take place no later than 30 days after the date set for the filing of the closing briefs.
- (iv) If a brief is or briefs are to be translated at the request of a party, the time limit under (iii) shall be extended by no more than 21 days as of the receipt by the parties of the translation(s).

5. VARIATION FROM WORD AND TIME LIMITS

- (i) On application by a party or *proprio motu*, the Trial Chamber may vary the word and time limits in this Practice Direction if a legal recess or extraordinary circumstances necessitate a variation.
- (ii) A party seeking variation of the word and/or the time limits shall seek authorization from the Trial Chamber in advance and shall provide an explanation of the circumstances necessitating the variation sought.

DATED IN ARUSHA, this 3 May 2010

Dennis Byron
President