



# The Legal Tools Project



*Bringing new technologies into the investigation, prosecution and defence of international crimes*

Since 2002, work has steadily progressed at the International Criminal Court (ICC) on a range of electronic legal services known as the Legal Tools Project. The Project provides a comprehensive collection of resources relevant to the theory and practice of international criminal law and brings modern technologies into the investigation, prosecution and defence of core international crimes.

## Components of the Legal Tools Project

The Legal Tools Project is composed of more than 15 different electronic legal tools and services. The Project includes repositories of key Court documents and collections of legal research resources in international criminal law, and also incorporates flagship legal research tools developed by the ICC: the Elements Commentary, the *Case Matrix*, the Means of Proof Document and the Proceedings Commentary.

The Project comprises :

1. The **Elements Commentary**: a commentary on each element of the crimes and legal requirement of the modes of liability in the ICC Statute, integrated into the *Case Matrix*;
2. the **Means of Proof Document**: a detailed compilation of international criminal jurisprudence and commentary on the type or category of facts which could potentially constitute evidence for the existence of specific legal requirements of an international crime or mode of liability, fully integrated into the *Case Matrix*;
3. the **Case Matrix**: a unique, law-driven case management application that provides an explanation of the elements of crimes and legal requirements of modes of liability for all crimes in the ICC Statute, serves as a user's guide to how one could prove international crimes and modes of liability, and provides a database service to organise and present the potential evidence in a case; the *Case Matrix* is only available to users who are working on core international crime cases, on the basis of an agreement with the ICC;

4. the **Proceedings Commentary**: a commentary on criminal law proceedings as contained in the ICC Statute, the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and the Regulations of the Court;

5. the ICC **"Preparatory Works" Database**, containing more than 9000 documents related to the negotiation and drafting of the ICC Statute, the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and the Elements of Crimes, issued by States, NGOs, academic institutions, the United Nations and other international organisations between December 1989 and September 2002;

6. **selected documents from international(ised) criminal jurisdictions**, including the primary law, indictments, judgements and selected decisions of international and allied military tribunals sitting in Nuremberg and Tokyo, the ICTY, the ICTR, UNMIK courts and tribunals, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the East Timor Panels for Serious Crimes, the Iraqi High Tribunal and the Cambodia Extraordinary Chambers;

7. **selected documents from national criminal jurisdictions**, including national instruments implementing the ICC Statute and the most relevant decisions issued by domestic courts and tribunals concerning genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes;



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8. **selected international treaties, decisions of regional and international human rights bodies, Internet websites and academic works** relevant to the research and practice of public international law, international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international criminal law; and

9. the **legal kit**: a reduced and portable version of the international criminal law library described above.

## How have the Legal Tools been developed?

The Legal Tools were developed by the ICC from 2002 through 2005. Originally they were conceived and developed by the Legal Advisory Section of the ICC Office of the Prosecutor, drawing on more than ten years of experience from the practice of international(ised) criminal justice. Since 2006, the maintenance and development of the Legal Tools have been co-ordinated by the Legal Tools Advisory Committee on behalf of the entire Court, with representatives from Chambers, OTP and Registry.

## How are the Legal Tools being maintained?

The Legal Tools undergo continuous content and technical development to keep improving their quality, scope and relevance. Given the limited human resources available in the operational environment of a court such as the ICC, this development work has been outsourced without cost to the Court to agencies with expertise in this field. This outsourcing activity is underway with partners from different countries. The Legal Tools Advisory Committee oversees that user needs within the different Court Organs properly guide future development work. In addition, an external Legal Tools Expert Advisory Group comprising leading legal technology experts has been established to serve as a sounding board for the future development of the Legal Tools.

## Making the Legal Tools common property

• The ICC intends to make most of the Legal Tools common property through the ICC website ([www.icc-cpi.int](http://www.icc-cpi.int)). By sharing tools and services developed by the Court with all States, NGOs and the general public, the ICC website will become an important resource for practitioners and scholars of international criminal law around the globe.

• In order to make the Legal Tools as accessible as possible, they have been developed using open source or otherwise widely available applications. They are structured in a simple and common sense way.

## International Criminal Court

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