



Press release

YOUNG RESEARCHERS SECTION

International Criminal Justice and International Humanitarian Law

Tuesday 25 th February 2025

On 17 December 2024, the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC made public its Draft Policy Paper on Environmental Crimes under the Rome Statute. This draft, drawn up following a wide-ranging public consultation initiated by the Office of the Prosecutor on 16 February 2024 - in which the International Criminal Justice and International Humanitarian Law (ICJ-IHL) Section of the Young Investigators Section had participated - defines the terms for the investigation and prosecution of environmental crimes and the related elements of crime. It examines the general and specific principles that will guide the work of the Office of the Prosecutor and specifies the actions it will take to fulfil its commitment to investigate environmental crimes.

Aware of the importance of mobilising the entire international legal and scientific community around this project, the Office of the Prosecutor launched a second call for consultations with the aim of gathering more specific comments on the Project. Based on the recommendations made in the previous consultation, which were considered in the Prosecutor's Project, a team from the JPI-DIH Unit, consisting of **Ayméric-Olivier ADJAKLO**, **Drusilla BRET-CUNYNGHAME-ROBERTSON**, **Mamadou FOFANA**, and **Yvan Lionnel YOUNSSI EYA** under the direction of Professor **Catherine MAIA**, sent a new contribution to the Office of the Prosecutor.

This contribution consisted of observations focusing on specific points: the gravity criterion, considered as a general principle that should guide the action of the Office of the Prosecutor; the assessment of serious and grave violations of the environment as crimes of genocide; the possibility of implicating natural persons on behalf of the activities of a legal person; and the extended cooperation envisaged by the Office of the Prosecutor.

On behalf of the entire AAILP, the Young Researchers Section would like to congratulate and thank the International Criminal Justice and International Humanitarian Law Section, in particular the members of the Working Group and Professor Catherine MAIA.