Safeguarding the Rights of the Accused under the Rome Statute: A Case Study of the International Criminal Court

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Abstract: This study examines the guarantees afforded to the accused under the Rome Statute as implemented by the International Criminal Court (ICC). It analyzes the key procedural and substantive rights enshrined in the Statute, including the right to legal representation, the publicity of proceedings, the confidentiality of investigative materials, and the right to be informed of the progress of investigations, among other safeguards. Employing an analytical legal methodology, the research demonstrates that the Rome Statute provides comprehensive protections for individuals accused of the most serious international crimes, such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, thereby reinforcing the principles of fairness, due process, and human rights within international criminal justice. The findings highlight the Statute's role in balancing the prosecution of grave offenses with the fundamental rights of the accused.

Keywords: Accused, Rome Statute, International Criminal Court, International Criminal Law, Procedural Guarantees.

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Introduction:

This study embarks on an in-depth examination of the safeguards afforded to the accused within international criminal justice, with particular emphasis on the Rome Statute of 1998, from which the International Criminal Court (ICC) emerged. The ICC was established to reinforce the objectives and principles of the United Nations Charter, especially the imperative that all states must refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

While international criminal justice was designed to advance these objectives, it is equally essential to analyze the foundational principles that govern the treatment of accused individuals. The Rome Statute explicitly incorporates comprehensive safeguards for persons accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. Despite the gravity of these offenses, the Statute guarantees numerous rights for the accused, beginning with preliminary investigations and extending throughout trial proceedings. This reflects the remarkable evolution that international criminal law has witnessed in safeguarding fundamental human rights within the legal process[1].

The rights of the accused constitute a critical branch of human rights, enshrined in international treaties and national legislation alike. These rights including the presumption of innocence until proven guilty form the core of the protections designed to ensure fairness and prevent arbitrary treatment. They shield individuals from unlawful arrest, detention, searches, coercion, or punishment, while also granting procedural rights during both investigation and trial phases. In the investigative phase, the application of criminal procedure laws ensures a delicate balance between the rights of the accused and society's interest in uncovering the truth and prosecuting offenders [2]**.**

The preliminary investigation phase, preceding the formal prosecution, is particularly critical, as it lays the groundwork for subsequent legal proceedings, including the apprehension of suspects. This phase is meticulously regulated to provide investigative judges with structured guidelines while ensuring that investigative authorities respect legal boundaries. The primary goal is not merely the collection of evidence, but the establishment of clear procedural rules to protect the accused, including the scope of police powers, the rights to legal counsel, and the maintenance of due process. Subsequent stages, such as the primary investigation conducted by the Public Prosecutor, further safeguard the accused by verifying the integrity of evidence, preventing abuse of authority, and ensuring that decisions to prosecute or dismiss the case are legally justified[3].

The significance of this study stems from the fundamental necessity of safeguarding the rights of the accused at all stages of investigation. Ensuring these protections not only preserves human dignity but also fosters public trust in the judicial process. This is particularly vital in international criminal law, where the magnitude of crimes necessitates

1 - Maučec, Gregor. "The international criminal court and the issue of intersectionality a conceptual and legal framework for analysis." International Criminal Law Review 21.1 (2021): 1-34.
2 - Alni, Zainab Ahmed, et al. "The International Criminal Court and the Quest for Global Justice their Challenges and Prospects." Journal of Ecohumanism 3.5 (2024): 481-492.
3 -- Maučec, Gregor, op.cit.

rigorous safeguards to prevent violations of the accused's rights and to maintain the credibility of international legal institutions.

Scientific and Practical Significance

The scientific significance of this study lies in addressing the insufficiency of national safeguards compared to international standards, emphasizing the comparative approach to benefit from international legal advancements. The study also considers the increasing use of modern technology in criminal investigations, which may inadvertently undermine the rights of the accused. Furthermore, the practical significance lies in providing guidance for policymakers and legal practitioners to implement strategies that protect the accused during investigative procedures, particularly within the framework of the Rome Statute, thereby ensuring respect for human dignity and procedural fairness.

Objectives of the Study

This study aims to:

1- Identify the safeguards afforded to the accused under relevant international instruments, particularly the Rome Statute.

2- Examine the protection of the accused at all stages of criminal proceedings, from initial allegations through preliminary investigation to trial.

3- Analyze the jurisdiction and independence of the ICC in prosecuting international crimes.

4- Assess the effectiveness of the ICC in enforcing justice while safeguarding the rights of the accused.

Key Concepts

The study relies on several key concepts, including:

Accused: An individual placed under suspicion or investigation for alleged criminal conduct, whose rights must be protected throughout judicial proceedings.

Preliminary Investigation: Initial procedures conducted to gather information and evidence immediately following a crime.

Primary Investigation: Procedures conducted by the competent investigative authority to examine evidence, identify suspects, and determine whether prosecution is warranted.

Judicial Police Officers: Officials authorized to conduct investigations, gather evidence, and submit suspects to competent authorities while adhering to legal limitations.

Criminal Procedure Law: Legal rules regulating the functions of public authorities in investigating crimes, identifying perpetrators, apprehending them, and conducting prosecutions.

Review of Previous Studies

Previous studies have examined various aspects of the rights of the accused in domestic and international law, including preliminary investigations, legal safeguards, and defense rights. This study differentiates itself by analyzing all investigative stages, emphasizing international legal standards under the Rome Statute, and using the ICC as a model for best practices in safeguarding the rights of the accused.

Problem Statement and Research Questions

The core problem addressed in this study concerns the protection of the accused during the investigative stages, from initial police inquiries to prosecution. Even when sufficient evidence exists, it is imperative to preserve the rights of suspects, particularly the right to legal representation at all stages. This study seeks to answer the central question: What safeguards are guaranteed to the accused during the investigation phase under the Rome Statute of 1998, and how are the independence and integrity of investigations ensured by the ICC? Secondary questions include:

1- What international legal instruments guarantee the rights of the accused?

2- How does the Rome Statute ensure these safeguards?

3- What are the characteristics and rationale of these safeguards according to the ICC?

4- Do the fundamental safeguards under the Rome Statute align with established international human rights standards?

Methodology

This research employs a legal-analytical approach, reviewing established international legal principles and the provisions of the Rome Statute regarding the rights of the accused. It examines the procedural safeguards in different investigative phases and evaluates the independence and impartiality of the ICC in applying these protections. The study also uses a descriptive-analytical method as a supplementary approach to contextualize the legal framework and its practical application, providing a comprehensive understanding of the rights of the accused under international law.

Section One: Developments in International Criminal Justice

When discussing international criminal justice, it is essential first to establish the fundamental concepts derived from international treaties that regulate this domain. These conventions have emerged from agreements governing international judicial matters. This chapter focuses primarily on the International Criminal Court (ICC), which represents the central institution under review. The ICC constitutes a historic milestone in the field of international criminal law, reflecting decades of effort by the United Nations to establish a permanent judicial mechanism. This initiative culminated in the 1998 Rome Conference, convened during the fifty-second session of the UN General Assembly, which adopted a treaty establishing the ICC[1].

1 Bassiouni, M. Cherif. "The universal model: the international criminal court." Post-conflict justice. Brill Nijhoff, 2002. 813-825.

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The evolution of international criminal justice will be examined through two principal axes:

First: The Role of the International Criminal Court in the Evolution of International Criminal Justice

Second: The Role of the United Nations in the Development of International Criminal Justice.

1- The Role of the International Criminal Court in the Evolution of International Criminal Justice

The ICC, as defined in Article 1 of the Rome Statute of 17 July 1998, is a permanent court with the authority to exercise its jurisdiction over individuals accused of the most serious international crimes. It serves as a complementary judicial body to national courts, intervening only when domestic courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute[1] **.**

The ICC's establishment marked a pivotal step in consolidating international criminal law, providing a permanent forum to address crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression[2].

1-1: Establishment of the ICC

The ICC came into effect in July 2002 after 60 ratifications from the signatory states, following the initial signing by 120 countries in Rome[3]. The foundation of the ICC reflects long-standing principles established in earlier international agreements, including the 1907 Geneva Convention on the peaceful settlement of disputes (Art. 37) and the 1899 Hague Convention on arbitration (Art. 16), which emphasized arbitration as a fair and effective method to resolve international disputes[4] **.**

As the first permanent international court with jurisdiction over individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression, the ICC complements national judicial systems[5]. It intervenes only where states are unable or unwilling to prosecute, ensuring accountability while respecting the primacy of domestic legal mechanisms. Its jurisdiction covers crimes committed after its establishment on 1 July 2002, the date the Rome Statute entered into force[6].

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1 - Article 1 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998) https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2024-05/Rome-Statute-eng.pdf

2 Bayz, Hemin Qasim. "The role and impact of the International Criminal Court in global justice." *OTS Canadian Journal* 3.5 (2024).

3 - Bassiouni, M. Cherif , op.cit.

4 - Fehl, Caroline. "Explaining the International Criminal Court: A 'Practice Test'for rationalist and constructivist approaches." *European journal of international relations* 10.3 (2004): 357-394.

5 - Bassiouni, M. Cherif , op.cit.

6 Begem, Sarah Sarmila. "The Role of the International Criminal Court: A Literature Review on Its Effectiveness and Limitations." *eScience Humanity Journal* 5.1 (2024): 253-259.

1-2: Legal Status and Authority

The ICC possesses full legal personality and the necessary capacity to exercise its functions under international law[1] **.** It exercises jurisdiction in accordance with the provisions of the Rome Statute over the gravest international crimes, namely genocide (Art. 6), crimes against humanity (Art. 7), war crimes (Art. 8), and the crime of aggression (Arts. 121–123)[2]. Importantly, the ICC's jurisdiction is complementary, not universal, acting only where national courts cannot or will not prosecute. The ICC also operates in accordance with the UN Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter when required[3].

1-3: Court Structure

The ICC's institutional framework mirrors national courts, comprising judges, a prosecutor, and administrative staff, each fulfilling distinct roles necessary for the Court's mandate. Article 34 of the Rome Statute outlines the ICC's organs[4]:

- The Presidency

- Trial and Appeals Chambers, including Pre-Trial Chambers

- Office of the Prosecutor[5]

- Registry

2-The Role of the United Nations in the Development of International Criminal Justice

The UN has played a pivotal role in shaping international criminal law. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the UN's principal judicial body, adjudicates disputes between states according to international law and provides advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by UN organs and specialized agencies[6].

The establishment of the United Nations and the entry into force of its Charter marked a decisive step toward formalizing international criminal law. The UN has also supported specialized committees and preparatory bodies, including the International Law Commission, to develop principles and frameworks for a permanent international criminal justice system[7]**.**

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1 Article 4: Legal Status and Powers of the Court
Article 4 of the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998)* provides that:

- The Court shall have international legal personality**.**
- It shall possess the legal capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions and the fulfillment of its purposes.
- The Court may exercise its functions and powers on the territory of any State Party and, by special agreement, on the territory of any other State.

https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2024-05/Rome-Statute-eng.pdf

2 - The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, op.cit

3 Goldsmith, Jack. "The self-defeating international criminal court." *U. Chi. L. Rev.* 70 (2003): 89

4 Rome Statute, Art. 34, op.cit.

5 Rome Statute, Arts. 42, 54.

6 Roach, Steven C. "Humanitarian Emergencies and the International Criminal Court (ICC): Toward a Cooperative Arrangement between the ICC and UN Security Council." *International Studies Perspectives* 6.4 (2005): 431-446.

7 - Aloisi, Rosa. "A tale of two institutions: the United Nations Security Council and the International Criminal Court." *International Criminal Law Review* 13.1 (2013): 147-168.

These efforts led to the creation of both ad hoc international tribunals and hybrid courts, combining national and international judges to prosecute serious violations of international law, including genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Article 13 of the Rome Statute empowers the ICC to exercise jurisdiction when[1]:

- A state party refers a situation to the Prosecutor,

- The UN Security Council refers a case,

- Crimes occur within the territory of a state party,

- Crimes are committed by nationals of a state party.

These mechanisms ensure that accountability for the gravest crimes is pursued under both national and international legal frameworks, illustrating the synergy between the UN and the ICC in the evolution of international criminal justice[2] .

Section Two: Guarantees for the Accused During the Investigation Stage Under International Treaties

This chapter addresses the legal safeguards afforded to the accused during the investigation stage, as established by international conventions. The discussion is organized into two main parts:

First: Fundamental guarantees during the preliminary investigation.

Second: Guarantees related to the investigative authority **.**

1: Fundamental Guarantees During Preliminary Investigation

The investigative process in criminal justice is guided by fundamental principles that protect the rights of the accused. These principles constitute essential safeguards ensuring fairness and transparency throughout the investigation[3] . The key guarantees are presented below:

1-1: Documentation of the Investigation

Proper documentation is critical for preserving information and preventing omissions or distortions. Investigative proceedings must be meticulously recorded by a legal clerk accompanying the prosecutor throughout all investigative steps. According to the Rome Statute, thorough documentation benefits both the accused and the investigative authorities and provides an indispensable record for judges reviewing the case if the prosecutor refers it to the court[4].

1-2: Public Nature of the Investigation

Transparency is a core safeguard during the investigation. The accused has the right to legal representation throughout the investigative process, which allows them to object to any

1 Tladi, Dire. "International Criminal Court (ICC)." *Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law* (2020).
2 - Aloisi, Rosa. Op.cit
3 - Bassiouni, M. Cherif, . Op.cit.
4 Roach, Steven C , op.cit.

procedural irregularities and submit motions or defenses to the investigating authority[1]. The presence of a lawyer reduces the risk of coercion or surprise during questioning and enhances the credibility and reliability of evidence when reviewed by the court[2].

1-3 : Guarantees in Witness Testimony

Testimony constitutes a primary means of establishing factual truth. A witness provides information based on direct observation, hearing, or other sensory perception. The Rome Statute permits the prosecutor to receive witness statements; however, detailed procedures and safeguards for testimony are regulated primarily at the trial stage. Witness evidence is vital for reconstructing crimes that occur suddenly, often with the perpetrator attempting to conceal their actions. Accurate testimony is therefore a cornerstone of establishing accountability[3].

1-4 : Regulation of Arrest Procedures

Arrest involves the deprivation of personal liberty and must adhere to strict legal safeguards to prevent abuse[4]:

- Competent Authority: Article 58 of the Rome Statute empowers the Pre-Trial Chamber, composed of three judges, to issue arrest warrants at the prosecutor's request.

- Grounds for Arrest: Arrest must be based on reasonable grounds that the accused has committed a crime under the ICC's jurisdiction and that detention is necessary to ensure appearance, prevent interference with justice, or avoid further criminal conduct.

- Content of Prosecutor's Request: Requests must include the accused's identity, relevant details for identification, the alleged crime, factual basis, and supporting evidence.

. Content of Arrest Warrant: Warrants must clearly specify the accused, the crime charged, and its alignment with ICC jurisdiction.

- Execution of Arrest: States receiving a warrant must take necessary steps to arrest and surrender the accused. The accused retains the right to request provisional release, with the Pre-Trial Chamber deciding expeditiously[5].

1-5: Guarantees During Detention

Detention is defined as the temporary deprivation of liberty within the limits prescribed by law and for the purpose of the investigation. The Rome Statute prohibits arbitrary arrest or detention and grants the detained individual the right to request provisional release under judicial supervision. Decisions regarding detention must be proportionate and justified, preventing undue delays before trial.

1 Huikuri, Salla. The Institutionalization of the International Criminal Court. Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.
2 Tladi, Dire.op.cit.
3 - Bassiouni, M. Cherif, . Op.cit.
4 - Bassiouni, M. Cherif, Ibid.
5 - Bassiouni, M. Cherif, Ibid.

1-6: Right to Compensation

The Rome Statute provides for compensation to individuals who have been unlawfully arrested or detained[1]. Victims of wrongful detention may submit a written request to the Court's Presidency, which appoints a three-judge panel to review the claim. Judges involved in prior decisions concerning the individual are excluded to ensure impartiality. Claims must be submitted within six months of notification of the initial decision.

1-7: Right to be Informed of Charges

The accused must be promptly informed of the charges against them after confirmation of their identity. This ensures the right to prepare an adequate defense, either personally or through legal counsel, and to examine the evidence presented against them[2] .

1-8: Right to Silence

The accused has the right to remain silent, respond selectively, or defer statements without this being interpreted as an admission of guilt. Exercising this right cannot prejudice the individual's defense[3].

1-9: Protection Against Coercion

Coercion, whether physical (including torture or drugs) or psychological (threats, promises, or undue influence), is strictly prohibited. Safeguards ensure that the accused's consent or statements are given voluntarily and without undue pressure[4].

1-10: Right to Legal Counsel During Questioning

Legal representation during investigative questioning is mandatory under Article 55 of the Rome Statute. Counsel presence ensures that the accused's rights are respected and facilitates a fair and transparent investigation.

Summary of Core Guarantees for the Accused (During Investigation and Trial)

- The accused cannot be compelled to incriminate themselves.

- Arbitrary detention, coercion, or threats are prohibited.

- The accused has the right to interpretation and access to necessary documentation.

- Arrest or detention must comply strictly with legal procedures.

- Clear justification must exist for any arrest under the Court's jurisdiction.

- The right to remain silent is fully protected.

- The accused may exercise their choice of legal representation, though they may waive this right and conduct their own defense[5].

1 - Article 85 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
2 - Article 55 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
3 - Article 67(1)(b), Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
4 - Article 69(2) and Article 55(1)(b) Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
5 - Article 55 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

These guarantees, enshrined in the Rome Statute, constitute the foundational protections for individuals subject to international criminal investigations, ensuring procedural fairness and adherence to international human rights standards[1].

2- Guarantees Related to the Investigative Authority

This section examines the safeguards concerning the investigative authorities and the qualifications required of investigators under the Rome Statute. These guarantees ensure that the investigative process is conducted fairly, independently, and in a manner that protects the rights of the accused[2].

- Independence and Impartiality of Judicial Authorities

Article 40 of the Rome Statute establishes fundamental principles for judicial independence:

- Judges shall perform their duties independently.

- Judges must refrain from engaging in any activities that could conflict with their judicial functions or undermine public confidence in their impartiality.

- Judges are required to dedicate themselves fully to their duties at the Court and must not undertake other professional activities that could compromise their focus or integrity.

Similarly, the investigative authority, composed of the Prosecutor and their deputies, functions as an independent body within the International Criminal Court (ICC). Prosecutors are appointed for fixed terms that are non-renewable, ensuring both independence and accountability. This structural independence is a critical safeguard that directly supports the protection of the accused[3].

Article 42 reinforces the autonomy of the Office of the Prosecutor, stipulating that no member may accept instructions from external sources or act contrary to the Statute's requirements. Prosecutors and their deputies are also precluded from participating in any case where their impartiality could reasonably be questioned, including cases where personal interests or prior professional involvement might compromise neutrality. Public commentary or written expressions that could undermine the perception of independence are similarly prohibited[4].

2-1- Essential Qualifications of Investigators

The effectiveness and fairness of an investigation depend on certain professional qualities, which include:

a. Investigator Impartiality

Investigators must maintain complete neutrality throughout investigative procedures (Article 42, Rome Statute). The primary objective of the investigation is to establish the truth

1 - Cassese Antonio. "International Criminal Law."Oxford University Press, 2nd edition, 2008.
2 - Bassiouni, M. Cherif, . Op.cit.
3 -Tiemessen, Alana. "The International Criminal Court and the politics of prosecutions." The International Journal of Human Rights 18.4-5 (2014): 444-461
4 -Goldsmith, Jack. "The self-defeating international criminal court." U. Chi. L. Rev. 70 (2003): 89

objectively. Investigators are therefore prohibited from allowing personal biases or external pressures to influence their work. The Rome Statute also permits parties to request the recusal of a Prosecutor or deputy if impartiality is in doubt[1].

b. Promptness in Conducting Investigations

Criminal proceedings demand urgency due to the immediate impact of crimes on victims and society. Rapid investigation serves as a safeguard for the accused by minimizing unnecessary pretrial detention and preventing undue hardship. Promptness must be observed both in completing the overall investigation and in performing each investigative step without compromising the rights of the accused[2].

c. Preservation of Investigative Records

Investigators are required to maintain comprehensive records of all investigative actions, preserving information and evidence to ensure procedural fairness and facilitate the truth-finding process. This measure prevents witnesses or suspects from altering or concealing evidence and is mandated under Article 54 of the Rome Statute, which obliges the Prosecutor to protect all documents and materials obtained during the investigation[3].

2-2-2: Oversight and Accountability of Investigators

Ensuring the accountability of investigators is a fundamental safeguard in international criminal justice, as it guarantees that investigative actions are conducted with integrity, impartiality, and in full compliance with legal standards. Oversight mechanisms are essential to monitor the conduct of investigators, prevent abuse of authority, and maintain the credibility of the investigative process[4].

a. Internal Supervision Mechanisms:

Investigators should operate under structured internal oversight frameworks, which regularly evaluate compliance with ethical and procedural standards[5].

b. Reporting Obligations and Transparency:

Comprehensive reporting and transparent documentation of investigative activities are crucial to uphold accountability and provide a clear audit trail for judicial review.

c. Remedies for Misconduct:

Effective remedies must be available to address any instances of misconduct, procedural violations, or breaches of the rights of the accused, ensuring corrective action and reinforcing the principle of justice[1].

1 -Fehl, Caroline. "Explaining the International Criminal Court: A 'Practice Test' for rationalist and constructivist approaches." European journal of international relations 10.3 (2004): 357-394.
2 - Tiemessen, Alana.op.cit.
3 - Lohne, Kjersti. "Global civil society, the ICC, and legitimacy in international criminal justice." (2017).
4 - Guilfoyle, Douglas. "Lacking conviction: Is the International Criminal court broken? An organisational failure analysis." *Melb. J. Int'l L.* 20 (2019): 401.
5 - Sainati, Tatiana E. "Divided we fall: how the International Criminal Court can promote compliance with international law by working with regional courts." *Vand. J. Transnat'l L.* 49 (2016): 191.

Conclusion

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the safeguards afforded to the accused under international criminal law, with particular emphasis on the Rome Statute of 1998 and the operational framework of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The examination highlights the significant evolution of international criminal justice, emphasizing procedural guarantees, institutional safeguards, and judicial mechanisms that collectively uphold fundamental human rights. The Rome Statute functions not only as a legal instrument defining accountability for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression, but also as a robust framework ensuring fairness, transparency, and independence throughout investigations and trial proceedings.

Results

1-The study of safeguards for the accused under international law, particularly within the framework of the Rome Statute of 1998, reveals several key findings:

2-The Rome Statute established foundational principles, jurisdictional structures, and procedural mechanisms that have significantly advanced international criminal law, reflecting the influence of United Nations standards.

3-The Statute incorporates extensive protections for the accused, ranging from preliminary investigation to trial and including the right to compensation if charges are unsubstantiated, demonstrating the ICC's commitment to human rights even in cases involving severe crimes.

4-The Statute emphasizes judicial independence and transparency, ensuring that judges and prosecutors exercise their duties free from undue influence, thereby protecting the objectivity of proceedings.

5- Case initiation before the ICC depends on three primary entities: State Parties, the United Nations Security Council, and the Office of the Prosecutor, illustrating the collaborative international framework underpinning the Court's operations (Article 13, Rome Statute).

Recommendations

Based on these findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

1- Review of Detention Procedures: The Rome Statute does not specify maximum detention periods, leaving decisions to the discretion of the Pre-Trial Chamber. Reassessment is necessary to prevent excessive pretrial detention.

2- Review of Case Referrals from the Security Council: The influence of permanent Security Council members can introduce pressures that may affect impartiality; reforms are suggested to safeguard judicial independence.

3- Enhancing Institutional Independence: While the Rome Statute emphasizes the independence of judges and prosecutors, additional measures may be required to shield the

1 - Guilfoyle, Douglasop.cit.

ICC from external political pressures, particularly from powerful states, ensuring robust protection of human rights and fair administration of justice.