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Hello, I'm Yvonne McDermott Rees, and this is my commentary to article 43 of the ICC Statute. Article 43 sets out the role of the Registry, which is the principal administrative organ of the Court, as well as the conditions of service, means of election, and requisite qualifications of the Registrar.

The Registry has primary responsibility for the 'non-judicial aspects of the administration and servicing of the Court,' pursuant to article 43, paragraph 1. This article is heavily supplemented by the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. The Registry's role involves keeping records on behalf of the court; serving as the channel of communication between the Court and the external and international community and ensuring the security of [the] Court's premises. The Registrar is responsible for ensuring the safety of detained persons, for organizing the surrender to the Court of suspects abroad, the transfer of persons in custody and the transfer of convicted persons to the state in which they will serve their sentence.

The Registry also bears a significant role in ensuring that the rights of the accused under article 67 are respected. It is responsible for providing 'access to appropriate and reasonable administrative assistance' to defense counsel and to ensuring their professional independence.

The Registry is also responsible for the Victims and Witnesses Unit, which is tasked under article 43(6) with protective measures and security arrangements, counseling, and other appropriate assistance for those victims and witnesses that appear before the Court.

The Registrar is the director of the Registry and as such he or she is the 'principal administrative officer of the Court.' He or she may be assisted by a Deputy Registrar. The familiar criteria of high moral character, competence, and fluency in one of the Court's two working languages also apply to the Registrar and Deputy Registrar. Like the Prosecutor and Deputy Prosecutor, the Registrar and Deputy Registrar take an oath undertaking to perform their functions 'honourably, faithfully, impartially, and conscientiously.' However, unlike the Prosecutor and Deputy Prosecutor, there is no procedure for disqualification outlined to the Rules for a breach of impartiality for a Registrar or Deputy Registrar. They might, however, still be subject to removal from office under article 46, if a serious breach of duty has occurred or disciplinary measures under article 47 for less serious breaches.

You can hear my commentaries on article 46 and article 47 on this site.