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As with previous editions, the third edition of Professor Schabas’ book presents a clear and understandable description of the establishment and operation of the International Criminal Court. He provides both a concise and coherent analysis of the Rome Statute’s substantive law and a clear guide to the relevant procedure. The book does not offer a sophisticated analysis and critique of every aspect of the Court and its prospects – for example there is little on the possible role of the court *vis à vis* the emerging trend to regionalise international criminal justice – but rather gives enough detail for non-specialists to get a solid grounding in the subject.

The book covers the creation and operationalization of the Court, jurisdiction, admissibility, general principles of criminal law, investigative and pre-trial procedure, trial and appeal, punishment, victims of crimes and their concerns, and the structure and administration of the Court. Five essential documents – the 1998 Rome Statute, States Parties and Signatories, Declarations and Reservations, Objections to the Declarations and Reservations, and Judges of the Court – are reproduced in the Appendices.

The size of the third edition dwarfs the previous edition published in 2004. Ignoring the appendices the new edition now has 378 pages compared with the previous edition’s 192 pages. Although the structure of the third edition remains to some extent unchanged, the book is comprehensively revised and updated to take into account all significant developments at the Court since 2004. The author also adds a new chapter on the Court’s operationalization to cover the situations referred to the Prosecutor to date; these are the three States Party referrals – Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Central African Republic regarding situations on their territories – and the referral on March 31 2005 of the situation in Darfur by the United Nations Security Council. Schabas criticises the practice of ‘self-referral’, whereby a State Party refers a situation taking place in its own territory to the Court. In his opinion, this encourages states to defer their responsibilities in prosecuting international crimes to the Court. The author also considers the communications made to the Prosecutor alleging the commission of international crimes in Iraq. He disagrees with the Prosecutor’s analysis of the Iraqi situation and the latter’s dismissal of claims on the basis of a purely quantitative test of the number of potential victims used to assess the gravity of the alleged crimes. Moreover Schabas questions the prosecutorial priorities – which appear to target the large-scale commission of crime rather than impunity gaps – and proposes a reconsideration of the priority criteria.

Unlike the previous edition where crimes prosecuted by the Court had a sepa-

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rate chapter, in this edition they are examined in chapter three dealing with the Court’s jurisdiction. Genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression form the subject-matter jurisdiction of the Court and they fit sensibly in this chapter. Schabas also discusses jurisdiction and admissibility in two distinct chapters rather than in one chapter as he did in the previous edition. This is appropriate since in practice jurisdiction and admissibility are separately considered by the Prosecutor of the Court. The Prosecutor first assesses whether the crimes committed are within the Court’s jurisdiction. If they are, the Prosecutor then determines the admissibility of the situation before the Court in light of the complementarity principle and the gravity of the crimes.

All other chapters are expanded to take into account the judicial activities of the Court and Chambers’ initial decisions. The book moreover refers to state cooperation with the Court’s work where it is appropriate. Nevertheless, it would have been useful to consider international cooperation and judicial assistance in a separate chapter. Since the Court began proceedings in its first cases, the need for state cooperation has become very evident. Broad cooperation is crucial in matters regarding the arrest of suspects, the relocation of witnesses, the protection of victims, and the enforcement of sentences. The bibliography is also updated to account for the voluminous – and still growing – literature on the Court.

This edition is a development of Schabas’ previous work on the subject, rather than a new departure. The revised version is welcome in offering its readers an up-to-date account of the judicial phase of the Court’s operations. Its clarity, accessible writing style, logical structure, and detailed referencing make it an excellent primer on the Court and international criminal law and an essential base for further research.