



AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES 11 DECEMBER 2017

COOPERATION PANEL DISCUSSION

**Statement by Mr Michael Bliss as delivered (1 minute allocation)
Legal Adviser (International), Department of Foreign Affairs and
Trade
Head of the Australian Delegation**

Moderator, Mr President elect, distinguished panellists.

Allow me to address three key points: complementarity, cooperation and universality.

With respect to complementarity, we need to collectively strengthen the ability of States Parties to prosecute Rome Statute crimes domestically. As co-focal point for complementarity in The Hague Working Group, Australia has been working to develop ways to strengthen domestic systems to prosecute Rome Statute crimes – for example, consulting with States requesting technical assistance, and engaging with possible providers of such assistance.

With respect to cooperation, we encourage State Parties to implement the Rome Statute's provisions on cooperation into domestic law and to make this cooperation a reality. The Security Council needs to demonstrate greater support for the Court, and stronger follow up on referrals.

With respect to universality, we recognise that uneven geographic acceptance of the Rome Statute remains an issue. Unless and until we achieve universality, there will

continue to be concerns raised about Court's jurisdiction, and perceptions of selectivity. In this context we are conscious of the low level of accession in our region, the Asia Pacific. Australia will continue to do what we can to promote universality, particularly in our region.