

Cooperation plenary session for the 16th ASP

11 December 2017

Cooperation: challenges and opportunities for effective cooperation on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute

Panel I: Financial Investigations: The Challenges of Asset Recovery

Thank you ambassador,

-) Firstly, Norway would like to thank the co-facilitators, ambassadors Diop and Lalliot, for their able leadership in the Working Group on Cooperation this year.
-) We would also like to thank the participants in the interactive panel discussion, and the Prosecutor and Registrar for their presentations and valuable contributions to this dialogue.
-) Norway welcomes the increased focus on financial investigations, in line with Recommendation 59 of the Recommendations on Cooperation.
-) Identifying possibilities for enhanced cooperation within the field of financial investigations is a significant step towards integrating such investigations as a fundamental component of investigations of international crimes.
-) Identifying and recovering assets will contribute to securing funds for reparations, thus playing a crucial role in delivering reparative justice to victims of crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC.
-) Norway supports the Court's efforts to institutionalise cooperation with stakeholders in financial investigations and asset recovery.
-) We also encourage states that have specific enhanced cooperation with the Court on financial matters to share their best practices.
-) Norway also commends the co-facilitators for their work with the seminar on asset recovery in Paris, in October. Norway participated at the seminar with great interest and eagerness to follow this process further.
-) We support the declaration on cooperation in the area of financial investigations, prepared at the seminar in Paris, and look forward to joining consensus on adopting the declaration this week.

Thank you.

Panel II: 20 years later: the future of cooperation with the International Criminal Court

Thank you ambassador,

-)] We would like to reiterate our gratefulness for the ambassadors' co-facilitation of the Working Group on Cooperation this year, as well as thank the participants of this panel.
-)] Norway appreciates the co-facilitators tireless work on many different topics related to cooperation. The Working Group on Cooperation has developed useful tools to strengthen cooperation of all relevant stakeholders with the Court.
-)] We welcome the continued work on reviewing the Recommendations on Cooperation.
-)] We also commend the achievements of the Working Group on article 97, and look forward to adopting the guidelines by consensus.
-)] We would also like to highlight and commend the work of states and Court organs that have organised seminars, events and trainings on cooperation in 2017. Enhancing and sharing knowledge on this topic is essential to capitalise on lessons learnt and strengthen the overall cooperation with the Court.
-)] During these last 20 years, the Court has engaged in a broad range of situations in many regions of the world. With this growing caseload comes an increased need for full and effective cooperation by a large number of states, in accordance with the obligation in part 9 of the Statute.
-)] Yet, it is important to acknowledge that lack of cooperation from States Parties continues to be one of the main challenges of the Court. We are therefore pleased that the co-facilitators have organised this plenary to discuss challenges to date, as well as opportunities for enhanced cooperation in the time ahead.
-)] Capacity building in national jurisdictions is crucial to enhancing cooperation, and Norway continues to be a strong supporter of this work.
-)] One initiative at a national level that we wish to underline is improved cooperation on investigation and prosecution of serious cross-border international crimes through Eurojust.
-)] Another important measure for enhanced cooperation is voluntary agreements. Last year Norway signed an agreement on enforcement of sentences with the Court, and we encourage other states to conclude similar agreements.
-)] To conclude, we encourage all states to cooperate fully and effectively with the Court, to enable the Court to fulfil its mandate, namely ending impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern. We move forward in the interest of tackling impunity with the spirit of cooperation and consensus.

Thank you.