

UK intervention - plenary segment on cooperation

Thank you Ambassadors, Madam Prosecutor, Mr Registrar, distinguished panellists,

I align myself with comments made by the Austrian Presidency on behalf of the EU and would make some additional points for the United Kingdom.

Firstly, I would like to thank France and Senegal for chairing the working group on Cooperation for another year, and for organising the recent seminar on arrest strategies which was attended by the Head of the War Crimes Team within the UK's Metropolitan Police. It was important to revitalise work on this important issue. Thank you also for this morning's fascinating plenary discussion.

Cooperation is vital to the success of the Court in the execution of its mandate. Strong political statements of support have, of course to be backed with action. The UK has always been and remains a strong supporter of the Court, and we have delivered on our words and assisted the Office of the Prosecutor's work in a number of investigations and preliminary examinations. We recognise that the Court needs more assistance in the field of asset tracking, freezing and recovery. We have taken follow-up action in accordance with the Paris Declaration. We have shared information with the Court on the UK co-hosted Global Forum on Asset Recovery, and have put relevant UK officials in touch with the Court to explore ways to boost co-operation in this field. The United Kingdom stands ready to look at concrete ways to assist the Court in this area, one in which we have much domestic experience.

Ambassadors,

States Parties must also take on their share of responsibilities in protecting witnesses and enforcing sentences. The UK entered into a cooperation agreement with the ICC on protection of witnesses in 2004, and on sentence enforcement in 2007. On witness protection, we have provided this to a number of ICC witnesses and their families. The UK has experience and expertise in the area of enforcing sentences from its previous voluntary enforcement of sentences for international criminal tribunals, namely the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the Special Court for Sierra Leone. We remain willing to assist the Court in this area, and to share our experience with any other State considering entering into a sentence enforcement agreement with the ICC. We are currently

considering the model agreements on Interim Release and Release of Persons, and earlier this year we met with ICC personnel for a preliminary discussion. We encourage other State Parties to consider and take forward voluntary cooperation agreements with the Court.

Finally, the United Kingdom re-emphasises the importance of States co-operating with the Court in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate, and we therefore renew our call to all States Parties to cooperate with the Court and to abide by their obligations under the Rome Statute

I thank you.