

Statement of Canada on “Review of the Court”

by

Mr. Alan Kessel,

Assistant Deputy Minister, Legal Affairs and Legal Adviser,  
Global Affairs Canada

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Mr. President,

Canada believes we are at an important moment in the development of the International Criminal Court. The Court is moving beyond initial growing pains, and States Parties now have a responsibility to ensure the Court remains a strong, effective, and relevant fixture of the rules-based international order. As a strong supporter of the Court, Canada attaches great importance to carrying out a comprehensive independent expert review of the Court. It is important that this review move beyond idle talk, provide a plan for action to strengthen the Court in its fight against impunity, and send a message to skeptics and non-state parties that they are stronger inside the Rome Statute than outside of it.

To achieve this goal, the support of States Parties is required. States have a critical role to play in the procedure for the nomination and election of highly competent individuals as the next Prosecutor and Judges. We welcome the new process instituted for the selection of the next Prosecutor, and we emphasize the importance of strengthening the Advisory Committee on Nominations to give it a more robust role in the assessment of judicial candidates.

Mr. President,

While States Parties need to do their part, this review will not work without the partnership of the Court. The Court must be a leader in the difficult process of self-reflection and in taking internal steps to improve its functioning.

While we welcome the recent example of quick turnaround on moving forward on the Bangladesh/Myanmar situation, we are concerned by the impact of long delays in the preliminary examination and investigation stages overall. The Court needs to take steps to prioritize files and to focus on the core function of moving cases forward, including by exploring the use of timelines.

Mr. President,

Canada stands ready to do its part in support of a successful review process and we look forward to cooperating with other States and the Court to that effect.