



## Concept note

### Plenary on cooperation of the 20th session of the Assembly of States Parties

08 December 2021

#### **Meeting the challenges of cooperation: a common and continuous responsibility for the effective implementation of the Rome Statute**

As conceived by the Rome Statute, the International Criminal Court is a judicial institution whose effectiveness depends to a large extent on its cooperation with all parties concerned, primarily States and international organizations. This is precisely what gives cooperation issues a very special and continued importance that must be handled with rigor and responsibility.

The Assembly of States Parties has identified several priorities in this area, including the execution of arrest warrants, voluntary cooperation, cooperation in financial investigations and the freezing of assets, taking into account the provisions of the Rome Statute in the legal ordering of States Parties, cooperation with international organizations, as well as public and diplomatic support.

The plenary session of December 8, 2021 aims, in addition to continuing the general mobilization of States in favour of strengthening cooperation with the Court, to focus on two of the aforementioned priorities, namely voluntary cooperation and that relating to financial investigations and the freezing of assets.

#### **Segment I: High-level interventions on voluntary cooperation**

In the spirit of the resolutions relating to cooperation, resolution ICC-ASP/19/Res2 of 16 December 2020 adopted by the Assembly of States Parties, encourages States to commit to strengthening their cooperation with the ICC, through the conclusion of agreements or arrangements, or by any other means relevant, including measures to protect victims and witnesses and their families.

This segment aims in particular, to create a framework allowing the different organs of the Court to express themselves on the question, by highlighting in particular their understanding of the crucial issues which challenge all the actors in the field of voluntary cooperation and by highlighting their needs and expectations in this area.

As part of this segment, the France will also have the opportunity to share its experience in the area of signature of voluntary cooperation agreements following the recent signing of an agreement on the execution of sentences between France and the ICC. Other interested states could also intervene on this point in order to share their views.

**Segment II: cooperation in the field of financial investigations, identification and freezing of assets; towards the establishment of a network of operational focal points**

Another priority for cooperation with the ICC relates to financial investigations and the freezing of assets.

Resolution ICC-ASP/19/Res2 of 16 December 2020 stresses the crucial nature of effective cooperation in this area, in particular to facilitate the granting of reparations to victims and for the possible payment of legal assistance. With this in mind, States are invited to put in place and improve the relevant mechanisms and procedures.

This second segment aims to give the floor to experts from the Court and to a representative of civil society, so that they can share their observations and experiences regarding the issue of financial investigations and the freezing of assets, while by highlighting the relevance of the idea of setting up a network of operational focal points in this area.

Interested states will also have the opportunity to intervene in this segment.

**Format (1H30 IN TOTAL)**

**Participants wishing to speak can register on a list, specifying the segment concerned. Given the limited time, each intervention may not exceed two minutes.<sup>1</sup>**

---

<sup>1</sup> Requests for inscription should be sent to the Secretariat by the end of Monday, 6 December 2021 at: [iccaspcoperation@gmail.com](mailto:iccaspcoperation@gmail.com) and [Juridique.la-haye-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:Juridique.la-haye-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr).