

LAURENT GROSSE: [Interpretation] Thank you, Mr. Prosecutor.

I'm Laurent Grosse, in charge of the legal counsel office of Interpol. On behalf of the Secretary-General of Interpol, who was unable to attend yesterday's ceremony, and in my own name, I'd like to congratulate you on your appointment. During the first part of my intervention I will speak in my own personal capacity, after which I will speak on behalf of my organisation.

There were a certain number of proposals made this morning that I would have liked to put forward myself; therefore, I will only join my own voice to what was stated by some of our colleagues as to the need for a network of informal contacts between your Office, Mr. Prosecutor, and the representatives of the Member States, as well as on the need to initiate a very close cooperation with intercontinental organisations.

Why should I insist on that? I see that one of the questions raised was how to ensure efficient investigations with limited resources. It seems to me that one way of achieving that goal is to act on the basis of existing systems and using structures that act in the same fields of competence as your Office; that is, all the entities that act in the field of struggle against violations of humanitarian law. There are non-governmental organisations as well as governmental organisations which do act in this field.

Now I reach the more official part of my statement, and I will speak on behalf of my organisation. In this context the organisation I have the honour to represent, which already has much experience of cooperation with the ad hoc tribunals set up by the United Nations; I speak in terms of ICTY and ICTR and the Special Tribunal for Sierra Leone, with which our organisation is already cooperating in order to facilitate arrest warrants. I would like to convey to you, on behalf of my organisation, an invitation to establish contact with us in order to

determine in which way cooperation could take place between your Office and our organisation.

I'm not going to enter into any detail about what we can propose to the Office of the Prosecutor, but one of the main advantages for you would be to obtain through the channel of Interpol, to obtain many important pieces of information. You could also resort to the expertise of the organisation in criminal analysis in order to establish links between possible perpetrators and networks.

As to the division of labour, whether you look for victims, suspects, or even for possible defendants to be extradited, I think there is much to gain to facilitate cooperation between our two organisations, and Interpol stands fully at your disposal for future discussions on this topic.

Thank you very much.