

## **International Criminal Court**

### **Eleventh Session of the Assembly of States Parties**

#### **Plenary panel discussion on cooperation**

##### **UK Statement on Cooperation**

Thank you Madame Facilitator for convening the debate and to the speakers for the wide range of issues which they have raised. This has given us much food for thought. We welcome the statement from Prosecutor Brammertz. This highlights how essential strong, vocal and practical cooperation is for the successful implementation of international justice. We are proud that the United Kingdom has played such a strong role in bringing ICTY indictees to justice and in sharing expertise and evidence.

We see the provision of effective cooperation with the ICC, and indeed all international tribunals, as the responsibility of all States. There is much discussion about what this means and how States can cooperate. For the UK this means that in addition to offering full cooperation through our Central Authority, we will continue to be a robust supporter of the ICC in its investigations. We will encourage States Parties to provide the necessary political, strategic, practical and financial support the Court needs.

We will redouble our calls on all States to apprehend those whom the ICC has indicted. They should stand trial for the charges against them. There must be no hiding place or sanctuary for people indicted by the Court. All States should consider the message they send to the outside world when they harbour or welcome indictees. The policy of non-essential contact promotes the marginalisation and isolation of indictees and creates the political space to effect their arrest.

We will use our international role and diplomatic network to pursue initiatives, including our initiative on Preventing Sexual Violence in conflict, which support peace, security, respect for the rule of law and human rights worldwide. What underpins much of this work is the strong and vocal support from the non-governmental organisations that have driven the global human rights movement: documenting atrocities, rallying public opinion, running campaigns, urging governments to act and monitoring the implementation of commitments. While this can be uncomfortable for us as States to hear, we urge them to continue as their voice is invaluable in taking the debate forward.

To conclude, for justice to succeed, States must be vocal, practical and committed in their cooperation.

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