

Twelfth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of
the International Criminal Court

General Debate

Statement on behalf of Canada

Delivered by

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Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development

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(Check against delivery)

Madam President of the Assembly,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I am honoured to speak today on behalf of Canada.

The Court's decision on 11 October 2013, that the case against Mr. Al-Senussi is inadmissible as he is currently subject to domestic proceedings conducted by the Libyan competent authorities, provides an illustration of the principle of complementarity in action.

Although we recognize that there has been a significant increase in the number of cases before the Court, we are deeply concerned about growing costs, and in particular the increase to this year's budget. States are accountable to their tax payers. We therefore must insist on international bodies delivering good value for money. Canada's objective for the budget of international organizations is zero nominal growth.

We note that concerns have been raised by the African Union and several states in relation to the Court. We would like the opportunity of this ASP meeting to get a better understanding of these concerns.

We believe that those responsible for serious international crimes must be held to account, for which national and, as a last resort, international mechanisms could potentially play a role.

It is disturbing that some arrest warrants are not being executed. Canada encourages all states to abide by their international commitments.

Madam President,

We also recognize the importance of a fully operational Independent Oversight Mechanism to the efficient and effective operation of this organization.

The IOM should have the authority to pursue, with suitable safeguards, the independent investigation of alleged misconduct in all three organs of the Court, without the need to obtain final permission of the organ head before doing so. There has been a detailed discussion of this issue over a number of years now, and it may be opportune for the Assembly to take action and operationalize all three functions of the IOM at this Twelfth Session, bearing in mind that this and other actions should not lead to an increase in costs, without sufficient offsetting in other areas.

Thank you.