



**STATEMENT BY AUSTRALIA
TO THE 15TH SESSION OF
THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO
THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

**BY
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**To the open ICC ASP Bureau meeting on the topic
“Relations between Africa and the International Criminal Court”
18 November 2016**

We thank the co-facilitators for convening this panel.

It is of course the responsibility of States Parties to ensure that they are meeting their own cooperation obligations. But this Assembly can, and should, do all it can to assist.

In this regard, Australia has been pleased to serve as WEOG Non-Cooperation Focal Point this year, supporting President Kaba in his efforts to prevent instances of non-cooperation relating to the arrest and surrender of persons subject to a warrant of arrest. We are pleased that, together with our fellow Non-Cooperation Focal Points, we have been able to prepare a Toolkit to assist States Parties take action aimed at preventing non-cooperation more regularly, and to depoliticise such action. We hope that the Toolkit is a resource that States Parties find useful in efforts to encourage other states to meet their obligations.

Our question for the panel is what more can the Assembly or a body do to help enhance cooperation?

In asking this, we note that few of the 66 recommendations on cooperation adopted by the Assembly in 2007 were addressed to the Assembly. Most of those recommendations focused on the sharing of knowledge and experiences, which is of

course useful, and we thank the Cooperation Co-Facilitators for their work in this regard.

We see room for the Assembly to do more. We should finalise and adopt the draft Action Plan on Arrest Strategies. We are looking forward to the review of the *Assembly Procedures Relating to Non-Cooperation* that the Non-Cooperation Focal Points will undertake next year in consultation with States Parties and other stakeholders. We could also explore how the Non-Cooperation Focal Points might be able to help assist in preventing other types of non-cooperation, including in relation to the provision of evidence.

These are just some initial suggestions, but we would be very interested in the panelists', and other States Parties', views on what more the Assembly can do to enhance cooperation.