

NZ intervention:

Thank you Mr Facilitator for giving me the floor and to the panellists for sharing your presentations and insights this morning.

New Zealand recognises the importance of cooperation and assistance from States Parties that are under an obligation to fully cooperate with the Court.

As noted by others this morning, timely and effective cooperation from States Parties and other Parties is a key prerequisite to the success of the Court's core mandate.

We understand that the Court sent 693 cooperation requests this year. Out of these, 418 requests came from OTP.

In relation to taking further investigative steps in current cases and investigations, in particular, identifying potential witnesses, we welcome the OTP engaging with States Parties informally, where appropriate, through the operational channel in the first instance to ascertain whether certain investigative assistance may be provided by that State Party before submitting a formal cooperation request under article 93 of the Rome Statute.

We recognise that given the finite resources available, such an approach may save time and resources in drafting a formal cooperation request that may not otherwise succeed.

We encourage the Office of the Prosecutor to continue taking this approach where appropriate for the efficient facilitation of cooperation requests.

Thank you.