

2017 UK statement to be made during the ASP session on

FUTURE COOPERATION WITH THE ICC

The United Kingdom welcomes this plenary debate on the issue of cooperation and in making this statement aligns itself with the statement from the EU.

In order to succeed, the International Criminal Court requires full cooperation from States and support at diplomatic and political level. It also requires assistance from States on enforcement and gathering evidence. The United Kingdom welcomes the wide ranging work undertaken on these issues and encourages all State Parties to continue their co-operation with the Court.

In my statement, I will address the following issues:-

-) Non-cooperation;
-) And UK co-operation.

First, on non-cooperation. President Bashir remains at large and continues to travel around freely. We urge all states to honour UNSCR 1593 and cooperate fully with the ICC and its Prosecutor with regards to the situation in Darfur. Our policy of non-essential contact with President Bashir and other indicted individuals continues. We welcome the balanced way in which the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber dealt with the issue of non-co-operation recently. We are pleased with the work this year to develop a non-legally binding understanding on the process for consultations under Article 97(c) between the Court and a State regarding cooperation requests. And we are grateful to Chile and Canada for their leadership on this issue.

Secondly, the United Kingdom, takes cooperation very seriously. We have a centralised system for responding to all requests from the Office of the Prosecutor and we have established guidelines and set standard procedures. We have noted the Court's request for State Parties to adopt model agreements on Interim Release and Release of Persons.

The United Kingdom works to assist the Court in many ways, notably by sharing our experience with both the Court and other State Parties. We are particularly grateful

to France and Senegal for their work to further cooperation this year, including the valuable Seminar on Financial Investigations hosted by Paris in October. The Seminar shined a light on the large scale of international efforts in this field and how we, as States Parties to the Rome Statute, and the Court, can work together with regional and international partners and international organisations to achieve asset recovery and assist with financial investigations. We were delighted that a UK expert from the Metropolitan Police was able to take part in a panel, alongside other national experts and the Registrar and Prosecutor. He shared the UK's extensive experience in this area and detailed the value that can be added to an investigation and support of reparation to victims through financial investigation. We look forward to building on the outcomes of the Seminar over the next year and beyond.

To conclude, cooperation with the Court is essential to achieving our common goal to end impunity for the most serious international crimes and we look forward to further constructive discussions.