



Judge Piotr Hofmański
President of the International Criminal Court

Remarks at

**Signing Ceremony between the ICC and the Government of the
Kingdom of Spain**

for an Agreement on the Enforcement of Sentences

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8 December 2022, The Hague, the Netherlands

Signature Ceremony

Your Excellency, Ambassador Femenía,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased that today we have the opportunity to sign an agreement on the enforcement of sentences between the International Criminal Court and the Kingdom of Spain.

I share with you our profound appreciation for Spain taking this step in its relationship with the Court.

As the Court's caseload increases, so does the need for voluntary cooperation in the form of the enforcement of sentences of imprisonment. The Court is grateful that Spain today joins the small, but growing, group of engaged States Parties which have declared their general willingness to assist the Court in this regard.

In signing this Agreement today, the Kingdom of Spain demonstrates its steadfast support and commitment to ensuring the proper functioning of the Court. It is enshrined in the Rome Statute that States Parties should share the responsibility for enforcing sentences of imprisonment pronounced by the Court. With its signature, Spain has assumed this responsibility.

I sincerely hope that other States Parties from all regions of the world will follow Spain's example. When States Parties all play their part in assisting the Court's operations, the effectiveness of the ICC system as a whole is enhanced.

Once more, on behalf of the International Criminal Court, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to you, Excellency, and the Kingdom of Spain, for extending this important measure of support to our joint institution.

Thank you.