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Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute

Plenary Session on Cooperation

Thursday 8 December 2022

Address by the President during Segment I

High-level interventions on voluntary cooperation

I would like to thank the co-facilitators for cooperation for inviting me to discuss together how we can collectively strengthen and promote cooperation with the International Criminal Court and between States.

Excellencies and
distinguished participants,

The ICC cannot function without cooperation because the Court relies on States Parties to act as its enforcement pillar. States therefore have a responsibility to support the judicial and prosecuting functions of the ICC by providing practical cooperation at every stage of the Court's activities.

The States Parties must ensure that they introduce effective legislation, procedures and structures to provide a way of assisting and facilitating



cooperation with the Court. Adopting implementing legislation and establishing a network of national focal points is essential to ensure that cooperation requests are made in accordance with respective national procedures and are carried out effectively.

By ratifying the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC, States Parties also play a part in safeguarding the integrity of the legal process by guaranteeing the inviolability of the Court's staff, assets and communications.

Excellencies and
distinguished participants,

In addition to the obligations under the Statute itself, there are also other forms of voluntary cooperation, such as agreements on witness relocation (to be addressed by Segment II of this plenary session), the enforcement of sentences, and for hosting acquitted persons, suspects, and accused persons granted interim release. Even though the Rome Statute does not impose a strict obligation on States regarding these forms of cooperation, they are essential to ensure that the ICC is able to carry out these functions.

I am delighted to see that today we will witness the signing of an agreement on the enforcement of sentences between the Court and the Kingdom of Spain. The signing of agreements of this nature demonstrates the commitment of States Parties to ensure that the Court operates effectively and to share responsibility for the enforcement of prison



sentences ordered by the Court.

In this regard, the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute, to be held in New York in early July 2023, will also include a ceremony to encourage States to ratify the Rome Statute and its amendments as well as the Privileges Agreements, and to sign voluntary cooperation agreements with the Court. I would like to encourage States Parties and civil society to promote these events and to organise their own commemorations at a national, regional and international level.

I would like to conclude by thanking the co-facilitators for their excellent work and for organising this plenary session.

Thank you for your attention.
