

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JUSTICE TO THE PLENARY
SESSION OF THE 22ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
ROME STATUTE**

NEW YORK, 08 DECEMBER 2023

**“ARRESTS: THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
REGARDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ARREST WARRANTS”**

Madam President,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Madam President,

I have the honour once again of taking the floor during the work of the 22nd Session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute to talk about the experience of the Central African Republic regarding arrests when enforcing arrest warrants.

I would like to reiterate the concept of international criminal justice being based on cooperation. For the ICC this means cooperation between States Parties and cooperation with the International Criminal Court.

As far as my country, the Central African Republic, is concerned, the government domesticated international crimes and cooperation procedures with the ICC in the national legal system in 2010.

In the context of the enforcement of arrest warrants issued by the ICC, the Central African Republic has collaborated closely with the following States: the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Chad, Uganda and the French Republic,

The enforcement of arrest warrants demonstrates the genuine political will of the Government to meet its obligations in terms of tackling serious infringements of human rights and international humanitarian law.

It should be made clear that the enforcement of arrest warrants duly takes into account the legal basis for them, the fact that there is sufficient evidence against the suspects and enhanced confidentiality rules must be complied with. The professionalism of those involved, along with logistical and material resources, are key aspects for the successful enforcement of warrants.

In this regard there are always challenges. I would like to mention the following inter alia: reluctance from certain States (lack of political will), limited resources, security issues, porous borders, and difficulties in locating and identifying suspects.

On the basis of this experience, I would urge all the States Parties to the Rome Statute to make cooperation the cornerstone of international criminal justice and to collaborate closely with the ICC.

In the context of strengthening cooperation, the Government of the Central African Republic and the Special Criminal Court of the Central African Republic have both just signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Similarly, the appointment of Focal Points is an initiative designed to facilitate cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.