

Statement by Japan
Plenary Session on Cooperation
(8 December 2023)

Thank you, Ambassador Alabrune, for steering discussions on cooperation.

Given the increasing number of situations and cases handled by the ICC, cooperation has been more critical than every for sustainable operation of the Court. Against this background, while promoting voluntary cooperation agreements is essential components of cooperation, we believe that enhancing the capacity of States, in particular capacity of developing countries, in the field of criminal justice is also a crucial element of cooperation under the Rome Statute.

During President Hofmański's visit to Japan in October last year, the ICC signed a cooperation agreement with UNAFEI, the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, whose costs and personnel are fully covered by the Government of Japan. Based on this agreement, UNAFEI conducts capacity-building activities for the criminal justice personnel from developing countries all over the world with participation of ICC officials.

This year UNAFEI invited Second Vice-President Judge Mindua to give a lecture on the role of the ICC and crimes against children in January. Judge Aitala also delivered a lecture online on the transnational organized crimes and the role of the ICC in a UNAFEI's training course in May.

UNAFEI will continue to organize these activities in 2024 and beyond. The Government of Japan encourages developing States Parties to make the best use of UNAFEI's programs.

Japan will continue to strive to enhance cooperation provided for in the Rome Statute.

Thank you.

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