



**23rd Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute
of the International Criminal Court
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**Statement by
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Madame President,

Firstly, Norway would like to thank the co-facilitators, for their able leadership in the Working Group on Cooperation this year.

We would also like to thank the panelists for setting out very clearly the importance of cooperation for their respective organs.

This discussion highlights the crucial role both States Parties and non States Parties play in supporting the Court to fulfil its mandate.

The court is totally dependent on complete, effective and timely cooperation from States. It is decisive for its success.

Yet, it is important to acknowledge that lack of cooperation from States Parties continues to be one of the main challenges of the Court. To ensure cooperation is a continuing task.



We urge all States to cooperate fully with the Court; to allow access, to share evidence and to execute arrest warrants. Norway is committed to do its part.

Norway concluded an agreement on enforcement of sentences with the ICC in 2016. Dominic Ongwen is currently serving his prison sentence in Norway. We congratulate Poland for signing their agreement this week.

Norway has also signed the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities, and urges remaining States Parties to do the same.

Cooperation with the Court is a legal obligation and must be unaffected by politics.

The Court is facing challenging times, and should as a bare minimum be able to rely on the steadfast support of us States Parties.

We look forward to hearing from the experts during the technical panel, and to continue working on improving cooperation, together with the Court representatives and fellow States Parties.

I thank you.