

Interventie gender – Orange the World campagne. Uitgesproken op woensdag 4 december, onder agendapunt ‘Review Mechanism’

Madam President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Today marks the tenth day of global activism against gender-based violence, as part of the UN Orange the World campaign.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands proudly supports this campaign and strongly condemns all acts of violence against women and girls.

Gender-based violence is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world.

Globally, an estimated 1 in 3 women will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime.

All forms of violence – whether physical, sexual, psychological, or economic – infringe on the rights, dignity, and well-being of women and girls.

The vast majority of perpetrators of such crimes evade accountability.

This is unacceptable.

The International Criminal Court plays a crucial role in bringing perpetrators of such crimes to justice

and in granting victims the reparation and support they deserve.

All crimes under the Rome Statute often involve gender-based violence.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands supports the policy on gender-based crimes, as presented by the Office of the Prosecutor at the end of 2023.

A victim- and trauma-centered approach is paramount, to ensure the meaningful participation of women and girls in the road to justice, development, peace, and progress.

It is our collective duty as Member States to the ICC to support the Court in carrying out this mandate.

We urge the Court to continue prioritizing accountability for gender-based crimes, from the evidence collection to the prosecution stage.

A safe working environment within the Court is essential for the Court to successfully carry out its mandate.

Therefore, we welcome the statement made by the President of the Court, underlining the importance of this safe workplace culture.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands has a zero tolerance policy towards all forms of misconduct and harassment.

Such cases must be handled with great care, led by a victim- and trauma-centered approach, with the presumption of innocence taken into account.

The IOM plays a key role in this matter.

We thank Mr Saklaine Hedaraly for his work as head of the IOM, and wish his successor success in further strengthening the IOM.

That being said,

We also commend the President of the ASP's decision to request an external investigation in one particular case.

Furthermore, the Kingdom of the Netherlands is a strong supporter of gender balance

and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all organs and at all levels of the Court,

as well as for the Assembly, the Bureau and all representation of States Parties to the Rome Statute.

In this regard, the Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the efforts made by the Court to conduct workshops,

adopt strategic goals,

and in general to take into consideration the element of gender balance in the recruitment of new staff.

Besides diversity of the Court's workforce,

general gender awareness and understanding of gender perspectives is a crucial skill for all staff.

There is still quite some work to be done,

but we commend the progress that has been made thus far.

---

The Kingdom of Netherlands remains committed to the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as a matter of human rights.

We call on everyone to take action during these 16 Days of Activism.

Only by working together can we build a future where women and girls live free from violence.

Let us Orange the World by standing united against all forms of violence

And continue fighting for gender equality.

Thank you.