

New Zealand Review Mechanism Statement

Delivered by Ambassador Susannah Gordon

5 December 2024

New Zealand joins others in expressing our thanks to the Facilitators of the Review Mechanism, Ambassador van den IJssel and Ambassador Kanu. You both have guided us through this sometimes challenging but always important process with calm and clarity.

New Zealand has supported the Review Mechanism throughout its tenure and will continue to do so as the work is taken up in other forums. We know that at times it can be uncomfortable to work through some of the much needed changes in the Court. Real change takes time but we commend the work thus far. Let us take a moment to reflect on how far we have come.

This year, we are pleased to see agreement on the tenure policy and the moratorium of hiring nationals of states not party to the Rome Statute. While the policies are not exactly how New Zealand would draft them, we are pleased to support the compromise texts – and thank our States Parties colleagues who have likewise done so. This shows collective ownership of the Court's effectiveness.

Ambassador van den IJssel you said in your address on Monday that while attention to external threats is necessary, the internal rigour, strength and efficiency of the Court is equally important. We agree. Having our house in order ensures we can be as resilient as possible in the face of external threats.

As we move forward, New Zealand's aim is to support the Court to be as efficient, effective and healthy as it can be. We'll continue to work with others to ensure the work of the IER is carried forward.

As some of the discussion moves to the bureau year, we want to put on record our commitment as a bureau member to move this work forward with the best interest of the Court and States Parties at heart.

If I may, I'd like to share a proverb or blessing in New Zealand's indigenous language, te reo Māori: *Waiho i te toipoto, kua i te toiroa*. In English this translates to: Let us keep close together, not far apart. Let us keep this in mind as we work together to further the good work of the Review Mechanism.