



Concept Note
Plenary Session on Cooperation
Twenty-Fourth Session of the Assembly of States Parties

4 December 2025
10:00 – 12:00

What forms of support from States Parties are required for the Court to address effectively the challenges it is currently facing?

Background

The plenary discussions will focus on one key theme: strengthening the support of States Parties to the Court in the context of the major turmoil it is currently experiencing, namely sanctions and threats of coercive measures. The modalities of support to the Court, whether political or operational will henceforth be discussed during this session with a view to reinforcing the Court's resilience and independence in the service of the fight against impunity and the pursuit of justice for victims of international crimes.

Objective

The overall objective of the plenary session is twofold: first, to explain why cooperation is vital for the Court, and second, to explore how States Parties can concretely strengthen their support to the Court.

In the wake of the sanctions imposed on nine elected officials of the Court and the various threats of coercive measures being taken against it, notably cyber-attacks and arrest warrants, the focus will be on the use of tools aimed at supporting the Court. The practical importance of the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC the protection of the Court, its elected officials, and its staff will be highlighted, and a renewed call will be made to States Parties that have not yet ratified the agreement to do so. Strategies will be examined to address threats targeting elected officials and Court staff, including after the end of their term of office. In more general terms, close attention will be paid to all available cooperation mechanisms that can contribute to providing support and protection to the Court.

The plenary will also showcase how the activation of existing cooperation tools between States Parties and the ICC enables the Court to fulfil its mandate in three specific areas.

Cooperation agreements between States Parties and the Court constitute an essential instrument in enabling the Court to implement its mandate. While some agreements, such as, for instance, those relating to sentence enforcement and provisional or final release, have already been discussed as part of the 2025 facilitation process on cooperation, this plenary

session will highlight the importance of agreements on the **relocation of witnesses and victims**, the latter being the core of the international justice project championed by the Court.

With respect to this matter, the issues of **victim assistance and reparations** will also be addressed. States Parties must provide support to the **Trust Fund for Victims**, which is a cornerstone of the Court's legitimacy, notably through the work it does with a view to restoring the dignity of victims by promoting the socio-economic reconstruction of communities and the rule of law.

With regard to the **tracking of fugitives**, an essential component of the Court's mandate to combat impunity, and a topic addressed throughout the year within the framework of the co-facilitation on cooperation, States Parties will explain how they engage with the Court to facilitate the arrest of suspects at large.

Format

The plenary session on cooperation will be co-chaired by the Ambassadors of Senegal and France, the co-facilitators on cooperation.

Segment I – *Cooperation is vital for the Court.*

This segment will feature high-level political interventions, in particular from Court officials, who will share their strategic perspectives on how cooperation with the Court can contribute to its resilience and security. It will allow for discussions on the commitments and political responsibilities of States Parties and the international community.

Segment II – *How can States Parties reinforce their support to the Court?*

This segment will focus on technical and operational contributions from specialists. Speakers will include Court officials, national authorities, and a civil society organization. Topics will include:

- * What are the challenges relating to witness and victim relocation agreements?
- * How can the Court be assisted in providing support and reparations to victims?
- * How can States Parties assist the Court in apprehending suspects at large?

Other interested participants will be invited to contribute their expertise and perspectives during this segment. They may register for the speakers' list, specifying the segment during which they wish to intervene. Given the limited time available and in order to allow for broad participation, each intervention may not exceed two minutes.¹

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¹ Registration requests must be sent to the Secretariat by Wednesday evening, December 3, 2025, at the following address: ICC.ASP24.cooperation@gmail.com, with a copy to: juridique.la-haye-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr. Registrations after this date will not be processed. Furthermore, participants will be added to the list of speakers on a first-come, first-served basis.