

**Intervention by Bangladesh in the 16<sup>th</sup> ASP Session on Cooperation:**

) Thank you Messers Moderators. Through you, we thank the Bureau on Cooperation for its monitoring and advisory work.

) We thank the distinguished panel of this second session for sharing their useful insights, which we believe helped identify a number of specific areas of cooperation that would gain further prominence in the coming years. Their practical experience and forward-leaning recommendations would be particularly useful in charting the way forward, including in our national contexts.

) We attach importance to the issue of Cooperation in order to enable ICC to efficiently and effectively deliver on its mandates. We remain attached to the 66 recommendations from 2007 as the sound basis for promoting cooperation. We thank the Court for identifying the seven priority areas among the recommendations, and for delineating the related challenges and possible responses to address them. The esteemed panelists today also emphasized a range of systemic challenges, including in relation to financing, which deserve our serious and collective consideration.

) Bangladesh remains seized with the question of enabling national legislation in compliance with the Rome Statute. Our national judicial system currently operates in pursuance of the International Crimes Tribunal Act of 1973, which was quite a groundbreaking law for its time. The rules of procedure developed subsequently for the International Crimes Tribunal, Bangladesh have incorporated a number of elements in line with the standards stipulated in the Rome Statute. Our authorities concerned recognise the need for further review of the domestic law to address any gaps in compliance with the Rome Statute, if required.

) Bangladesh maintains strong political and diplomatic will to cooperate with the Court, as we have manifested through our various engagements with ICC over the last few years. We have remained an ardent proponent of the issue of victims' reparations and the potential contribution of the Trust Fund for Victims.

) Bangladesh stands ready to cooperate with the Court on critical issues relating to preliminary examinations, investigations, prosecution and judicial proceedings. If need be, we would be forthcoming in designating a focal point on the issue of financial investigations.

) We take note of the points made concerning cooperation agreements. We support the approach in principle, and would remain open to discussions in this regard from a pragmatic, need-based perspective.

) Bangladesh urges the Court to continue with its various outreach initiatives, including seminars and workshops, to promote the issue of cooperation. We look forward to the participation of our relevant experts in some of these events.

) I thank you.