

- Mr President,
- My delegation would like to align itself with the statement made earlier by the distinguished representative of Austria on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.
- On behalf of the Netherlands, I would like to express my gratitude to Senegal and France for their efforts over the last year as co-facilitators on cooperation. Also this year, cooperation has proved to be one of the key elements of the functioning of the Court. So I am glad the co-facilitatorship is in such good hands.
- Ever since the establishment of the ICC, we have had a close relationship with the various organs of the Court. Both in our role as Host State, and as State Party to the Rome Statute, we strive to fulfill our duties comprehensively, in order to enable the Court to function to its fullest potential. As we are all aware, the Court cannot function without full cooperation from States Parties. And it is for this reason we, as states parties, all carry this duty to provide cooperation to the Court.
- The area of arrest and surrender is an important area in this regard, where the Court heavily relies on the cooperation of States Parties. Arrests are a necessary condition for the Court to be able to exercise its jurisdiction. And looking at the amount of outstanding arrest warrants, one can only conclude that more work needs to be done.
- Earlier this year, the Netherlands, together with the court, established an informal arrest warrant contact group to discuss the current status of the Court's arrest warrants and consider how (diplomatic) efforts can be advanced to ensure their execution.

- As the court explained, and as we have heard today, these efforts can contain a diverse range of actions, from following travel routes, technical support, to political pressure.
- Therefore support can be given by members of the foreign ministry, prosecution services and embassies abroad.
- The absence of arrests and surrender forms a crucial challenge to the credibility of the Rome Statute system. We call on all states to meet their obligations and cooperate fully with the Court, in whatever form this might be.
- If we all contribute our own part, however small or large this might be, together we are able to make real progress and contribute to the fight against impunity, as is our duty as states parties.
- Finally I would like to share a reflection on the topic of voluntary cooperation. We very much welcome the pledging ceremony taking place this morning. Agreements with the Court on important tasks such as providing a safe haven for witnesses who have risked their lives by providing a statement before the Court, or the execution of a sentence is highly desirable.
- However, I would like to remind States that the Court is not supported by the mere signing of an agreement; I therefore call on all States to follow through on their intentions by providing actual support when the Court issues a request in a relevant situation.
- Thank you.