



ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**Cooperation plenary session for the seventeenth session of the Assembly of
States Parties**

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20 years after Rome: Back to the major challenges of cooperation

Thank you ambassador,

- First, I would like to thank the co-facilitators on cooperation for their able leadership of the Working Group on Cooperation.
- I would also like to thank the panellists for their presentations and valuable contributions to this dialogue.
- Norway welcomes the increased focus on financial investigations in relation to Rome statute crimes. Last year's adoption of the *Paris declaration on cooperation in asset recovery* was a welcomed development. Identifying and recovering assets can contribute to securing funds for reparations, thus playing a crucial role in delivering reparative justice to victims of crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC.
- With the Court's growing caseload comes an increased need for full and effective cooperation by states in all regions of the world, in accordance with the obligations set out in part 9 of the Rome Statute.
- However, States Parties' lack of cooperation remains an obstacle, especially in the critical matter of the arrest of persons subject to warrants issued by the Court. The fifteen pending arrest warrants are an unfortunate testament to the challenges of non-cooperation faced by the Court. Additional efforts are needed to ensure that alleged perpetrators can answer to the charges levelled against them.

- Norway appreciated the organising of the seminar on arrests at the ICC premises here in The Hague. The well-attended seminar gave some very useful insights in the different challenges relating to this very important issue.
- Enhanced cooperation between the ICC and the Security Council is still called for. We would like to commend the organisers of this year's Arria-formula meeting on UN Security Council-ICC relations, the first of its kind, and hopefully a first step towards better coordination between the two institutions.
- In conclusion, further synergies and exchanges on matters related to cooperation between the Court and States Parties are needed. We encourage all states to cooperate fully and effectively with the Court, to help fill the impunity-gap for the most serious international crimes.