

The seventeenth Assembly of States Parties
Plenary Session on Cooperation

7 December 2018, at 11:15-11:45
World Forum

Remarks
of Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

Thank you, co-facilitator.

First of all, I appreciate all panelists for insightful and informative remarks.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Republic of Korea fully supports the Rome Statute and the work of the ICC, and is willing to cooperate with the ICC, recognizing the importance of cooperation with the Courts.

We're fully aware that, by adopting the Rome Statute, States Parties established not just a Court, but an entire system of new international justice. The architecture of the system splits responsibilities, whereby the ICC carries out judicial work, but enforcement is devolved to States. Therefore, the ICC will investigate, prosecute and try suspects of crimes, but States must assist the ICC for arrest warrants to be implemented, evidence to be provided, witnesses to be protected, and sentences to be enforced.

Most of the time, States cooperates with the ICC, but, unfortunately, not always. The lack of cooperation can seriously diminish the ICC's ability to deliver justice. It's important not to lose sight of the fact that cooperation with the ICC is a treaty obligation, and it must be treated as such.

In this regards, the States Parties and the ICC must make the utmost efforts in strengthening cooperation for arresting persons suspected of committing crimes within the mandate of the Court. This means that cooperation should come to be regarded as routine, not an exercise of extraordinary political will. This should apply to State Parties, and also States not yet parties, since the ICC has no tools to enforce its own decision. It's now up to the States to identify from their perspective the challenges in providing cooperation and assistance, and to identify actions that can be taken.

Thank you.

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