Australia

General Debate

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Brett Mason, Head of Delegation

Cooperation: Australia concerned with arrest warrants that have not been executed. In this regards Australia welcomes the draft Action Plan on Arrest Strategies, which offers a concrete strategy for members of the international community.

Australia calls upon States Parties to support the deletion of article 124. Australia is disappointed that the Working Group on Amendments was unable to agree and submit a proposal to the Assembly to adopt the so-called “language cluster”. Australia believes States Parties must continue to review the victim's participation system to safeguard the role of victims in the Court proceedings.

Australia also calls for the full respect of the judicial and prosecutorial independence of the Court.

Special Session on Complementarity

It is not sufficient to have the crimes in the books. There is a need to develop a prosecuting network, a body of expertise for prosecuting gender-based violence crimes.

Supplementary Items Debate (Proposals South Africa)

Australia is prepared to engage in a dialogue on the made proposals, but is of the opinion that it would be inappropriate to discuss article 98 in the Assembly, as the judicial and prosecutorial independence of the Court must be respected.