New Zealand

General Debate

*Speaker: H.E. Ms. Janet Lowe. Ambassador to the Netherlands.*

New Zealand applauds Judge Fernández de Gurmendi’s efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Court and welcomes the publication by the Pre-Trial Division Judges of the manual of best practices in pre-trial proceedings. New Zealand also welcomes the president’s efforts to strengthen the relationship between the Court and the States Parties, including through in-country visits. In addition, New Zealand welcomes the Office of the Prosecutor’s 2016-2018 Strategic Plan and the efforts of the ReVision project team to restructure and streamline the Registry’s organizational structure.

New Zealand recognizes that there are resource constraints and differences of view regarding the Budget. Therefore we would welcome a discussion in the ASP to achieve a shared long-term vision on the Court’s workload and resourcing issues.

Another critical success factor is cooperation between the Court and the United Nations, at all levels, consistent with the Relationship Agreement. We believe that more can, and should, be done to ensure the Relationship Agreement’s full implementation.

UN Security Council referrals need to be carefully considered and the Council needs to have a genuine commitment to support the implementation of the referrals it makes.

Build on the principle of Complementarity, the Court is a Court of last resort. New Zealand shares the view that countries need to be empowered and equipped with the tools to investigate and prosecute crimes at the domestic level in a timely and effective manner.

New Zealand remains committed to working constructively with others to ensure the Court Continues to be, and is seen to be a meaningful and effective judicial institution.