Republic of Korea

General Debate

Speaker: H.E. Jong-hyun Choe, Ambassador to the Netherlands

We firmly believe that the greater efficiency and effectiveness of the Court will serve not only to expedite the criminal process but indeed to secure greater cooperation from States Parties.

Cooperation: Thanks to the efforts by the Working Group on cooperation, we have seen the development of valuable instruments for the promotion of cooperation this year. However, we should not be content just with having quality instruments in place, but should strive to ensure that they yield effective and beneficial results.

Universality: We believe that the exchange of information and sharing of our own experience with non-States-parties may be of great value in this regard, to prompt them to give fresh thought to their positions and come to see that the ICC is truly playing a valuable role in preventing and deterring egregious crimes.

Complementarity: it is also imperative that States Parties further develop the competence of their domestic courts.

We reaffirm our support for the Working Group of Complementarity for their work on Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes; eliminating injustice based on gender at the national and international levels is a key priority.

We should exert utmost efforts to achieve a balance between efficiency and the fundamental values of criminal procedure taking great care to ensure that we do not sacrifice any of them in the name of efficiency.

Budget: A reduction in all budget items should not be our primary focus. Enhancing effectiveness to combat impunity at the national and international levels for the most serious crimes should be our guiding criteria in the consideration of the Program and Budget. Regular reprioritization and evaluation of budget items will be important in enabling us to achieve this goal.

Regarding the ongoing major structural changes within the Court, my delegation appreciates the Court’s efforts to increase the proportion of staff members from non- and under-represented States Parties.

The Republic of Korea will make voluntary contributions to both the ICC internship program and the Trust Fund for Victims.