Serbia

General Debate

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Petar Vico, Ambassador to the Netherlands

It is the duty of Member States to provide the Court with our utmost cooperation, assistance and effective oversight through this Assembly and its subsidiary bodies.

We see these days an interesting view coming from the civil society that international institutions are only as powerful as their members allow. It is only partially correct; the system of the Rome Statute depends on all relevant factors of international relations, and not only on its Member States and their fragile political willingness to cooperate with the Court.

Universality: is the most important precondition for the accomplishment of its global mission. Justice cannot suffer selectivity: all victims, whatever their nationality is, deserve full respect and proper legal reaction of the international community.

Budget: The Courts must be provided with sufficient resources, especially in regard with its increasing caseload. A responsible budgetary policy of the Assembly is also a guarantee for the Prosecutor’s independence in the decision-making process during investigations.

Supplementary items: The Assembly should refrain from holding debates that follow recent decisions of the Court with which certain Governments have not been satisfied, or debates concerning the issues pending before the Court.

Special Session on Cooperation

Serbia has a lot of experience in the field of cooperation, over time it has received more than 2600 assistance/cooperation requests form the ICTY. Even though the government of Serbia was not always content with the outcome of cases they continued to comply with the arrest warrants and to fulfill its international obligations in good faith.