United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

General Debate

Speaker: Ms. Cathy Adams, Legal Director, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Supplementary items: The UK stresses the vital need for States to respect the prosecutorial and judicial independence of the Court, and refrain from any steps that could be perceived as interference in the judicial process.

Cooperation: As an example of active State engagement with the Court, the UK has continued during the past year to provide the OTP with full cooperation in relation to the reopened preliminary investigation into allegations of abuses by UK forces in Iraq. The UK rejects the allegation that there was any systematic abuse by British forces in Iraq, but recognizes that the Prosecutor must follow the proper procedures when serious complaints are made.

Budget: The Court needs to be realistic in its calls for resources. Substantial year-on-year increases are not sustainable when national governments are themselves having to meet the challenges of austerity by significant reductions in their budget. The UK commends the Court’s efforts to reorganize the structure of its organs and find ways to become more efficient and effective.