Venezuela

General Debate

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Haifa Aissami Madah, Ambassador to the Netherlands

Venezuela welcomes the recent accession of the State of Palestine and calls upon all non-States-Parties to ratify or accede to the Rome Statute as soon as possible.

To consolidate the trust of the international community is without a doubt one of the biggest challenges of the Court. We insist that the Court, in the recruitment of its staff, takes into account the principles of equitable representation of regional groups, gender, and the inclusions of the largest possible number or judicial systems around the world, in the context of more inclusive and transparent processes and in order to exercise influence in those countries that are not committed to the Rome Statute.

Venezuela would like to draw attention to the recurring practice of individuals that make use of the Court to serve their political objectives, especially during electoral processes.

It is the duty of all the functionaries of the Court to participate directly in the processes that correspond to them and therefore it is unacceptable that certain tasks of the Court, such as the assurance of witness testimonies, be outsourced under the pretext of a dangerous situation.

Cooperation: States Parties should abstain from any measures that undermine the Court in its fight against impunity.

Supplementary Items Debate (Proposals South Africa)

Venezuela acknowledges the legitimate right of South Africa to raise these issues before the Assembly. The Court must be judicially independent but it must not downplay States Parties’ attempts to clarify articles. Venezuela believes that it is viable and relevant to hear South Africa’s case and that the Assembly, as the sovereign and political body it was designed to be under the Rome Statute, should initiate a constructive dialogue. No country should be stigmatized.