The Importance of Gender Justice Within International Laws and Norms and Development Framework

(Panel I, Thursday, 26 May 9:45-11:00)

Importance of Gender Justice within the International Laws and Norms

• **What is gender?** Gender, refers to males and females, within the context of society. This definition acknowledges the social construction of gender, and the accompanying roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes assigned to women and men, and to girls and boys.

• Humanity’s history is marred by examples of Sexual and Gender-based abuses as a tool of war.

• Sexual and Gender-based violence has been condemned throughout the years by the international community but only in the past decades have we seen a tremendous effort to conceptualize these violations as a crime under international law.

• The process of criminalization is the result of the tireless efforts of all relevant stakeholders including civil society advocates.

• **With the emergence of violent and extremist non-state actors such as Daesh, it is imperative that all law-abiding nations contribute to the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern.**

• In this respect, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the jurisprudence of ad hoc tribunals have made it possible and necessary to prosecute Sexual and Gender-based violence crimes similarly to other crimes.

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The provided definition is in accordance with article 7(3) of the Rome Statute.
that shock human consciousness such as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

- **The fight against impunity has several components, including**
  
  - Firstly the **deterrence effect** of having an independent Court
  - Secondly a prosecutorial component and
  - Thirdly justice for victims in forms of redress, rehabilitation and restitution.

  Without our Asia-Pacific region, universality cannot be achieved and the countries that fall outside of the international framework provide a safe haven for perpetrators of crimes of international concern.

- Though the international precedent against sexual and gender-based crimes has been set, the Asia-Pacific region is lacking in its support.

- As the most underrepresented region in the ICC’s Assembly of State Parties, the Asian Group of States has a mere 19 of 53 have ratified the Rome Statute.

- Our democratic nations need to join those who say NO to impunity for international crimes, including gender crimes

- By participating in the ICC system, our countries also take domestic legislative action that contributes to the deterrence of sexual and gender-based crimes;

- This will also strengthen our countries sovereignties and our ability to investigate and prosecute sexual and gender-based crimes.

**It is important to remember that the ICC is only a Court of last resort, and that it is not retroactive.**

**Both our great nations would benefit from joining the ICC, and I hope we can support each other in taking this important step towards a truly international rule of law, which includes us and all our citizens.**

**Thank you so much for listening.**