



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

Round table Meeting of UN-ICC focal points

Remarks

by

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19 May 2021

Your Excellency, Judge Hofmański,

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to address you today during this year's Roundtable meeting.

This Roundtable is a testament to the history and relationship between our respective institutions. As you know, the United Nations played a significant role in assisting States to establish the ICC. As depository of the Court's founding instrument, the Secretary-General continues to play an important role, a function that is carried out by my Office, which is also the focal point within the Organization for cooperation with the Court.

Since the ICC's establishment, the United Nations and the Court have enjoyed a strong and steadfast relationship, which stems in many ways from our common goals and visions. We both strive to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to ensure that the rule of law prevails. The Preamble to the Charter records the determination of the peoples of the United Nations to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and to establish conditions under which justice can be maintained. The Court plays a key role in ensuring



accountability for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of international concern, whilst bringing justice to the victims of those crimes.

In 2004, our institutions concluded a Relationship Agreement, providing a solid foundation for our cooperation. Over the years, the Organization has supported the Court's work by providing substantive and logistical assistance. This assistance has included the provision of logistical support to the ICC in the conduct of meetings and field missions; facilitating the interview and testimony of UN personnel in proceedings before the Court; and providing documents and information relevant to the Court's activities.

As the Court progresses with its work, the United Nations continues to be a committed partner whose support the Court can count on, even in the most challenging of circumstances, including throughout the unprecedented times we have all faced together in the past year.

This Roundtable is also a timely occasion for us to take stock of our cooperation. Much has happened since the last meeting at this forum in December 2017. Of note is the transfer of a suspect, in June 2020, into the Court's custody in relation to the situation in Darfur, which was referred to the Court by the Security Council. The opening of an investigation by the Office of the Prosecutor in November 2019 into the situation in Bangladesh/Myanmar is another notable development.

This Roundtable is therefore a fitting chance to glance at the rearview mirror as we cruise ahead; to confer and reflect upon the good practices, the lessons learnt and the challenges that have arisen, and that may arise, as we continue to work together.

I am heartened to observe your enthusiastic attendance at this meeting, which for the first time is being held in a fully virtual format. I see that you have a very exciting programme ahead of you and would encourage you to actively participate in the discussions.





Let this Roundtable be an opportunity for colleagues from the Court and across the United Nations, to frankly and earnestly share each other's perspectives and experiences.

I will conclude by wishing you all a fruitful exchange; I am confident that your discussions will be conducted in full confidence and in the spirit of even further strengthening the cooperation between our two organizations.

