

TECHNICAL WORKING MEETING TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION
WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Intervention by Canada

- Canada recalls that 2021 marks ten years of formal cooperation between the OAS and the International Criminal Court (ICC). Indeed, a decade ago, in April 2011, then OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza and the former President of the ICC, Sang-Hyun Song, exchanged letters to establish a Cooperation Agreement between the two institutions.
- The Rome Statute recognizes the role intergovernmental organizations can play in providing cooperation to the Court, and all states parties have an obligation to cooperate with the ICC in accordance with the Rome Statute. We also recognize the importance of the principle of complementarity.
- As a permanent court of last resort, the ICC embodies our collective commitment to fight impunity for the most serious crimes under international law.
- Canada welcomes the recent U.S. government decision to remove sanctions imposed on the ICC and its officials.
- We commend the U.S. decision to engage all stakeholders at the ICC-and to further advance support for the rule of law, access to justice, and accountability for mass atrocities.
- 2021 also marks a new milestone for the ICC and our collective commitment to gender equality.
- Following its appointments in March, for the first time in its history, the ICC judicial bench reflects a gender parity of 9 men and 9 women judges.
- The ICC continues to advance international justice for gender-based crimes with its landmark decisions confirming rape as a war crime and forced marriage as a crime against humanity.
- In 2019 the Assembly of the State Parties asked the Court to identify best practices in solving challenges related to sexual and gender-based crimes, including practices related to investigation, prosecution and training. I would encourage all OAS members of the States Parties to assist the Court in the process of identifying best practices in addressing sexual and gender-based crimes.

- Canada is a strong and long-standing supporter of the ICC, and we welcome opportunities to enhance cooperation with the Court. The following initiatives can be taken by States to increase cooperation with this institution:
- States Parties could celebrate significant ICC milestones in public communications (social media presence, website) and reiterate their commitment to the principle of complementarity.
- The exchange of employees between the ICC and States Parties' law enforcement bodies such as programs like the Visiting Professional Program may enhance cooperation.
- States Parties can ensure that all relevant government departments within their own states are aware of the work of the ICC.
- Non State Parties could be encouraged to issue formal declarations of their commitment to the principles of the Rome Statute at the Human Rights Council of the United Nations. This may later be used as a stepping stone to secure cooperation and encourage adhesion to the Rome Statute.
- States Parties should work towards universality by raising the value of joining the Rome Statute with non-States Parties.
- States Parties could provide technical assistance to States that have expressed an interest in joining the Rome Statute. The technical assistance could range from incorporation of the Rome Statute in domestic legislation to case building techniques, based on the identified needs of the State.
- Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Prosecutor, Madame Fatou Bensouda, for her dedication and service to the ICC and her work with survivors and victims.