



ASP22 General Debate: AJC Statement

7 December 2023

Your excellencies, dear colleagues,

It is an honour to address this Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court with our fellow civil society organisations.

The purpose of the Asia Justice Coalition is to promote justice and accountability for gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law in Asia. We believe that justice—*holistic* justice—is the only antidote to impunity and that accountability for international crimes—domestic, regional, and international—is a significant part of this holistic justice.

Amongst its many traits, holistic justice is **inclusive**.

In this vein, and in line with our work to bolster women’s leadership in international justice in our region, we welcome the Court’s commitment to gender equality. This is reflected in its strategy on Gender Equality and Workplace Culture and the newly launched policy on gender-based crimes, which we commend.

To fully address the gendered blindspots still present across practice, we call for continued understanding of the value and agency of women in utilising and progressing international law.

Holistic justice is also **timely**.

As an Asia-based, Asia-focused coalition whose founding focus was accountability for on crimes against the Rohingya people of Myanmar, we are acutely aware that the

International Criminal Court remains the *only* forum investigating deportation and persecution to address individual criminal responsibility. The prosecutorial and judicial creativity facilitating the jurisdiction of the Court in the Bangladesh/Myanmar situation is appreciated.

That said, we gather at a time when the situation in Myanmar has only continued to worsen. Since the 2021 coup, Myanmar's military has continued to commit crimes against humanity and war crimes in a brazen display of impunity. This is while the victims and survivors of the Myanmar military 'clearance operations' – the Rohingya – continue to await visible progress and next steps in the situation.

Therefore, we call for a consistent and speedier discharge of the Court's mandate, including moving the Bangladesh/Myanmar investigation forward.

Finally, holistic justice is **collaborative**.

We emphasise the absolutely invaluable role that civil society plays in addressing impunity for international crimes. We call on the Court to continue to strengthen its commitment to meaningful engagement and transparent communication with civil society and we call on States Parties to strengthen support for witnesses and those that engage with the Court.

In the spirit of inclusive, timely, and collaborative justice--holistic justice--that brings us to this work, thank you.