



## The Peace and Justice Initiative

*Towards Universal Implementation of the ICC Statute*

### **Intervention for General Debate of 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of International Criminal Court Assembly of States Parties, 2-6 December 2024**

*The Hague 4 December,*

Thank you Ambassador.

Honourable Assembly, the Peace and Justice Initiative congratulates the ASP and the Court on all the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the IER. However, further efforts are required. To this end, we would like to highlight two interconnected topics.

The first is the length of proceedings, which is addressed in various recommendations, including 192 and 194. Overly drawn out proceedings hamper the delivery of efficient and effective justice for victims of grave crimes. The Chambers Practice Manual has established deadlines for a range of decisions. However, to ensure that those deadlines are respected, they should be adopted in binding instruments, with deviation only permitted in exceptional circumstances.

We are particularly concerned at the glacial pace of delivering reparations to victims. The reparations process must be sped up, to avoid the deplorable situation where victims pass away without receiving any tangible remedy.

In this respect, we commend the work of the Special Criminal Court in Bangui. It has completed proceedings in 19 months, including decisions on victims' reparations. Importantly, it has implemented those reparations within the same timeframe. We call on the ICC to examine the SCC to take on best practices where it can.

The second area is the use of emerging technologies, which is encouraged in RECS 208 and 209. Greater use of digital technology should be made, including the use of audio-video link (Rule 67). In particular, interviews of witnesses should presumptively be recorded in audio-visual format, as close as possible to the time of the events. In addition, technology should be used to speed up and standardise disclosure.

The Peace and Justice Initiative stands ready to assist the Court in implementing these recommendations.

Many thanks.

Dr. Matthew Gillett.