

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

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Statement to the ICC Committee on Budget and Finance

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Valeria Babără, and I am Legal and Advocacy Officer with Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice.

Today I would like to bring to your attention the issue of gender responsive budgeting, a topic we have raised with you before.

As requested by the Committee at its 39th session, the Court now has adopted an ICC Strategy on Gender Equality and Workplace Culture. Gender responsive budgeting is now part of this strategy, through which the Court has committed to consult relevant partners, including States and civil society, to develop efforts to adopt gender responsive budgeting.

As discussed in 2022 with the ICC Chief of the Budget Section, now Registrar, we would like to encourage all organs and bodies related to the Court, including the Committee on Budget and Finance, to start including gender disaggregated data in their upcoming reports and conceptualise on what changes could be made for a more gender responsive budget in their recommendations, an action which would be in line with the GEWC strategy. We encourage the Committee to analyse how the Court spends its resources with a gender lens not only when it comes to human resources or recruitment but beyond, as a cross-cutting issue. An analysis of how equitably the Court expends its budget is applicable to all areas, including but not limited to remuneration levels, judicial and prosecutorial activity, travel, contractual services, training etc.

I would like to emphasise that this exercise should not be seen as creating additional budget lines or implying any budget increase, but rather as better budget planning based on specific evidence regarding the beneficiaries of resources, and more fairly using existing financial and other types of resources, including staff time. Such improved budgeting will lead to increased effectiveness, easier monitoring of achievements, advancing good governance standards, and an enhancing accountability and transparency.

We stand ready to offer expertise, training, assistance in drafting a gender budgeting action plan and other support as needed, and also encourage states parties to share relevant best practices from their national jurisdictions.

Thank you.