



Security Council briefing on the International Criminal Court, Libya, 19 November 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Justine Micallef

First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President,

I extend Malta's appreciation to Prosecutor Khan for the comprehensive report and briefing.

I also welcome the Permanent Representative of Libya to today's meeting.

President,

Accountability remains central to building durable peace and fostering justice for victims of international crimes. As we deliberate today, the progress outlined in the twenty-eighth Report of the ICC Prosecutor offers a sense of momentum and hope for achieving justice.



Malta commends the significant strides made by the ICC in advancing its work in Libya. The issuance of six arrest warrants related to alleged crimes that took place in Tarhunah stands as a testament to the Office's commitment to holding perpetrators accountable.

These warrants, alongside efforts in tracking fugitives and preserving evidence, underscore the importance of consistent and sustained cooperation among States, Libyan authorities, and the Court.

The deepened cooperation with Libyan authorities, particularly through missions to Libya in May and October of 2024, marks a positive step forward. Such engagement is crucial in facilitating access to evidence and supporting capacity-building in the Libyan judicial system. Malta strongly supports these efforts and encourages continued dialogue and tangible outcomes.



Equally commendable is the ICC's strengthened engagement with civil society organizations which should continue throughout the work of ICC in Libya. The periodic consultations with victims, survivors, and their families exemplify a victim-centred approach that aligns with the principles of restorative justice. These voices are vital in shaping a justice process that addresses grievances and promotes reconciliation.

Malta also recognises the challenges CSOs face, including restrictions on their operations, and calls for measures to protect and empower them in their critical work.

The proactive collaboration with third States and regional organisations has further bolstered the Court's investigative activities. Malta welcomes the progress made in investigating crimes affecting migrants, crimes committed in detention centres, and atrocities committed between 2014 and 2020. These efforts contribute to dismantling impunity and provide a pathway for justice for countless victims.

President,



As we reflect on the achievements highlighted in this report, we must also recognise the challenges that remain. The completion of the investigative activities in relation to the situation in Libya and the successful transition into the judicial phase of the Office's activities prior to the end of 2025, requires sustained cooperation, sufficient resources, and unwavering commitment from all stakeholders.

Malta reiterates its call on all States to fully respect the ICC's mandate, support its operations, and to cooperate on the arrest and surrender of individuals subject to ICC arrest warrants. We also commend the Office for its commitment to protect the safety, physical and psychological well-being, dignity and privacy of victims and witnesses beyond any eventual completion date.

The ICC has a critical role to play in addressing accountability as a cornerstone of peace and security. We believe that by strengthening partnerships, enhancing cooperation, and most importantly, placing victims at the heart of these efforts, the international community can collectively support Libya in its pursuit of justice and stability.



Lastly, we reiterate the call on all States to respect the integrity and independence of the International Criminal Court and to cooperate actively with its investigations. We underline the importance of its impartial work in combatting impunity for atrocity crimes, which is ever more necessary in our world.

I thank you.