



Round table Meeting of UN-ICC focal points

Remarks

by

Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares

Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and
United Nations Legal Counsel,

19 May 2021

Your Excellency, Judge Hofma ski,

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to address you today during this year's Roundtable meeting.

This Roundtable is a testament to the history and relationship between our respective institutions. As you know, the United Nations played a significant role in assisting States to establish the ICC. As depository of the Court's founding instrument, the Secretary-General continues to play an important role, a function that is carried out by my Office, which is also the focal point within the Organization for cooperation with the Court.

Since the ICC's establishment, the United Nations and the Court have enjoyed a strong and steadfast relationship, which stems in many ways from our common goals and visions. We both strive to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to ensure that the rule of law prevails. The Preamble to the Charter records the determination of the peoples of the United Nations to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and to establish conditions under which justice can be maintained. The Court plays a key role in ensuring



accountability for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of international concern, whilst bringing justice to the victims of those crimes.

In 2004, our institutions concluded a Relationship Agreement, providing a solid foundation for our cooperation. Over the years, the Organization has supported the Court's work by providing substantive and logistical assistance. This assistance has included the provision of logistical support to the ICC in the conduct of meetings and field missions; facilitating the interview and testimony of UN personnel in proceedings before the Court; and providing documents and





Let this Roundtable be an opportunity for colleagues from the Court and across the United Nations, to frankly and earnestly share each other's perspectives and experiences.

I will conclude by wishing you all a fruitful exchange; I am confident that your discussions will be conducted in full confidence and in the spirit of even further strengthening the cooperation between our two organizations.

