

WOMEN'S INITIATIVES FOR GENDER JUSTICE



Presentation to the Assembly of States Parties' Committee on Budget and Finance

Wednesday 4 September 2024

International Criminal Court Headquarters, The Hague, The Netherlands

On Wednesday, 4 September 2024, I had the opportunity to present to the Assembly of States Parties' Committee on Budget and Finance at the International Criminal Court (ICC) Headquarters in The Hague. My intervention highlighted an issue close to the core of our mission of Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice: **the critical need for gender-sensitive institutional development within the ICC.**

For the past 20 years, we have monitored and analysed the ICC from a gender perspective, and it is clear that without a **safe and stable environment** for all who operate within it, the Court cannot effectively fulfil its mandate.

One statistic in particular struck me and underscores the urgency of this work—**30% of ICC staff continue to experience harassment in the workplace.** This figure, which persists years after the Independent Expert Review, is deeply troubling. It is not only an embarrassment to the Court but a call to action for all of us committed to justice. I emphasized the importance of **supporting the ICC's Focal Point for Gender Equality**, calling for much-needed resources to drive anti-harassment training, staff counselling, and gender mainstreaming efforts throughout the institution.

The upcoming Gender Action Plan from the Trust Fund for Victims, which we were honoured to contribute to, aims to integrate gender and intersectional sensitivity into the Trust Fund for Victims' programming. I urged the Committee to **support the Trust Fund for Victims** in implementing **Gender-Responsive Budgeting**, a powerful tool that allocates resources based on a gender analysis of the Court's goals. This approach not only reduces gender inequality but also strengthens transparency, accountability, and the Court's overall effectiveness.

I was grateful to be joined by incredible colleagues in this presentation to the CBF. Following Yasmina Gourchane from the Coalition for the ICC and Matteo Tonella from the International Bar Association, Ahmed Abofoul from Al Haq delivered powerful remarks. He reminded the CBF that **the ICC is the court of last resort and represents the last hope for victims of the Palestinian genocide in Gaza**, underlining the fundamental need for the Court's proper funding.

As we move forward, I am hopeful that our collective efforts will strengthen the ICC and ensure that gender equality remains at the forefront of its mission. I look forward to continued collaboration with the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Registry, the Trust Fund for Victims, and civil society as we work together to advance gender justice.

— Alix Vuillemin

Executive Director, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice