

[AS DELIVERED]



“IIM - Inclusive Justice”

Intervention by Mark Zellenrath, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations.

NEW YORK, 25 October 2022

Thank you Sweden for hosting this event. It is an honour to be a cosponsor together with our friends from Canada and Liechtenstein. I will keep my remarks brief, because I think we all very much look forward to the expert interventions during the panel discussion. Thank you, Ms. Aubert, Ms. Jarvis, Ms. Otani and Ms. Seif for being with us today.

The topic of our meeting, inclusive justice, is very close to our heart and to the “DNA” of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Justice lays the groundwork for lasting peace. But peace as an enduring value can only be achieved if the will and voices of all victims and all survivors are taken into account. Justice in isolation from those individual human beings that have been harmed and wronged will lose its meaning.

I am impressed and encouraged that the partners we work with are making important strides when it comes to methodology in this regard.

Today we have with Ms. Michelle Jarvis, Deputy Head of the IIIM, the mechanism that is truly at the forefront of these efforts.

When it comes to the fight against impunity, the collection, consolidation, preservation, and analysis of evidence - and the preparation of casefiles – are all indispensable steps.

In this regard, it is important to ensure that the representation of the entire victim diaspora is imbedded within the evidence collected. That no one is left behind because of their age, gender or disability. Because, as we all know, it is often the most vulnerable that are the least visible and often overlooked. We very much welcome the IIIM Gender Strategy And Implementation Plan that was recently presented.

We further believe special attention must be given in evidence gathering to survivors and victims of conflict-related sexual violence. It is a sad truth that conflict-related sexual violence is not an exception but a widespread practice during conflict.

We applaud the IIIM for placing special focus in its work, not only on those most vulnerable, but specifically for putting a gender analysis at the center of its work and as a cornerstone of its victim- and survivor-centered approach.

I think this should serve as an example for other UN-mandated entities. Because it cannot be that your chances to achieve justice are reduced because of your gender.

Finally, the panel discussion will also pay attention to children. Very important, as tackling impunity for violations of children's rights is often overlooked. Children may be treated as any other victim class, without much address to their special status or, for example, their right to education.

I would like to end here. I very much welcome the discussion on how we can address the needs of those that are discriminated, that are being disproportionately affected and how we can help them in the most sustainable and empowering way.