The Coalition for the ICC Elections’ Campaign

Since the first elections to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2003, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court has called for the nomination and election of only the most highly qualified candidates to positions within the ICC and the Assembly of States Parties (ASP).

Ahead of the upcoming ICC Registrar election, the Coalition is urging the ICC Judges to elect only the most highly-qualified candidate and to ensure a fair, transparent, and merit-based election process.

As part of the campaign, the Coalition helps to publicize and raise awareness about ICC and ASP elections and the candidates. All nominees are requested to complete a dedicated questionnaire that seeks to provide additional information about the candidates’ qualifications. This will enable nominees to expand on their respective qualifications and expertise, and serve to promote fully-informed decision-making by Judges when voting.

The Coalition strongly opposes reciprocal political agreements (“vote-trading”) in all ICC/ASP elections.

The Coalition does not endorse or oppose individual candidates, but advocates for the integrity of the nomination and election procedures.

For more information, please contact: cicc-hague@coalitionfortheicc.org
Overview

At the 16th ASP session, a number of important positions in the Rome Statute system will be filled. Preparations will also be made for the election of the ICC Registrar in 2018. With the five year term of the current ICC Registrar set to expire on 16 April 2018, the Presidency has taken the necessary steps to prepare a short list of candidates for the position. This list has been transmitted to the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) with a request for any recommendations. The ASP recommendations, which will be transmitted to the plenary of judges upon completion, will be taken into consideration by the judges, who will then vote for the next ICC Registrar.

The ICC Registry

The Registrar heads the ICC Registry and is thus responsible for its effective functioning. The Registry, which operates under the authority of the ICC President, is indispensable to the operations of other organs of the Court including the Presidency, Chambers, and the Office of the Prosecutor. Some of the main areas of administration and services overseen by the Registry are:

1. Judicial and courtroom logistical support, such as translation and interpretation, management of court records, legal aid, victims’ and witness support, detention center management, among others;
2. External affairs, such as public outreach, field office support, and external relations; and
3. Management, such as the Court’s budget, human resources, security, and other administrative services.

Each Registrar is elected for a five-year term and is eligible for one re-election at the end of her or his term. Mr. Herman von Hebel, from The Netherlands, is the current ICC Registrar following his election on 8 March 2013. Mr. von Hebel’s current term will expire on 16 April 2018. He has submitted his application for re-election.

Qualifications of Candidates

1. Rome Statute Article 43(3) stipulates that the Registrar shall be “of high moral character, be highly competent and have an excellent knowledge of and be fluent in at least one of the working languages of the Court.”

2. It is preferred to have the position filled by a national of a State Party to the Rome Statute (see Annex I), but nationals from non-States Parties may also be considered.

3. The ICC also aims to have a fair representation of gender, geographic representation, and different legal systems of the world in its professional positions.

The Application Process

1. Leading up to the election of the Registrar, a vacancy announcement for the position is publicly advertised by the Court and is made available on the Court website for a period of three months.

2. The application deadline for this year’s vacancy was 28 June 2017.
3. Upon the expiration of the vacancy deadline, the Court’s Human Resources section has assessed all applications based on the minimum requirements stipulated in the vacancy announcement. This long-list of candidates was sent to the Presidency.

4. The Presidency then prepares a short-list of candidates based on relevant criteria from the vacancy announcement and the requirements, preferences and additional advantages and assets specified therein.

5. Based on these criteria, the Presidency individually evaluates the qualified candidates and produces a short-list of candidates who best meet these criteria and the requirements set out in the Rome Statute.

6. The short-list (see below) is sent by the ICC President to the ASP with a request for any recommendation that it may wish to make.

**The Role of the Assembly of States Parties**

1. Historically, the ASP has recommended that the judges take into account a number of elements such as high standards of efficiency and integrity as well as to consider similar criteria set forth in Article 36 of the Statute, which pertains to the election of judges, such as equitable geographical and gender representation, and legal expertise on specific issues such as violence against women. The ASP’s recommendations for past Registrar elections can be found on the ASP website.

2. The ASP can submit recommendations that are transmitted “without delay” to the plenary of judges of the ICC, who are responsible for the election or reelection of the Registrar “as soon as possible.”

3. The judges will take into account any recommendations from the ASP for the position when they cast their votes.

4. In 2017, The Hague Working Group, facilitated by Vice President of the ASP Ambassador Segio Ugalde of Costa Rica, discussed recommendations concerning the election of the Registrar. The working group developed draft recommendations, similar to the recommendations submitted in 2012, which included criteria governing the employment of staff of the Court provided for in the Rome Statute. No recommendations on a specific set of candidates were included. The draft recommendations will be transmitted to the President of the ASP for consideration by the Bureau. The recommendations will be adopted at this year’s ASP taking place in New York from the 4-14 December.

**Short-list of Candidates**

1. Mr. Lilian Apostol (Republic Of Moldova);
2. Mr. Marc Dubuisson (Belgium);
3. Ms. Chipo Gaobatwe (Botswana);
4. Ms. Indhrambal Goberdan (South Africa);
5. Mr. John Hocking (Australia);
6. Ms. Dorothy Kingsley-Nyinah (Ghana);
7. Mr. Peter Lewis (UK);
8. Mr. Mbacké Lo (Senegal);
9. Ms. Kate Mackintosh (UK);
10. Ms. Fatmata Binta Mansaray (Sierra Leone);
11. Mr. Esteban Peralta Losilla (Spain);
12. Mr. Daniel Didier Preira (Senegal);
13. Ms. Marie Inger Tuma (Sweden); And
14. Mr. Herman von Hebel (The Netherlands)

The Election Process

1. The ICC Registrar will be elected by the plenary of 18 ICC judges soon after the swearing-in of the six new judges in March 2018.

2. Rome Statute Article 43 stipulates that the election is to be done by secret ballot and absolute majority must be achieved.

3. If an absolute majority is not achieved in the first round, the ICC’s Rules of Procedure and Evidence (Rule 12(3)) states that successive voting rounds shall be held until a candidate obtains an absolute majority.

CICC Campaign on Registrar Elections

1. As part of its campaign on ICC and ASP election, the Coalition has requested all short-listed candidates for the Registrar’s election to respond to a questionnaire which invites a broad range of information regarding the candidate’s background, qualifications, experience, and views relating to her or his candidacy.

2. The responses to the questionnaire will be posted on the Coalition’s website on http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org/fight/icc-elections-2017