

22 August 2019

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) to request States Parties to the Rome Statute to nominate and support the appointment of an individual who is competent, highly qualified and of unimpeachable integrity, to the Advisory Committee on Nominations of Judges to the ICC (ACN).

The CICC is a global network of over 2,500 member organizations drawn from more than 150 countries, which advocate for a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court (ICC).


The ACN plays an important role in the appointment of qualified and competent judges to the ICC. In view of this, the ACN must be enabled to operate independently and fairly in considering and providing objective findings and recommendations on the skills, experience, capacity and integrity of judicial candidates during each election cycle. Obviously, the role of ICC Judges in ending the scourge of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide cannot be overemphasized.

We do not, of course, as the Coalition endorse or oppose any individual candidate for the ACN post. And, equally, we call on States Parties to respect the integrity of all nomination and election procedures. In this regard, we ask that all States Parties avoid “clean-slate” elections, i.e., elections preordained by regional groups and involving the nomination of the bare minimum number of candidates for available positions. This practice has the unfortunate effect of discouraging the election of qualified and experienced individuals.

We are therefore calling on all States Parties to nominate highly qualified and independent candidates for the ACN before the nomination period closes on 25 August 2019. This and similar appointments to the ICC are even more significant given the increased threats and challenges confronting the Court and the Rome Statute system (RSS). Judges are a vital cog in the fight against impunity for the worst crimes known to humanity.

Lastly, allow me to draw your attention to the information provided by the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties on the nomination procedure and elections of members of the ACN, which appears on this webpage: https://asp.icc-cpi.int/EN_Menus/asp/elections/advisorycommitteeenominations/acn2019/pages/nominations.aspx.

With our highest regards,



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