

## Election of the ICC Registrar in 2023

### What's at stake in this election?

The registrar of the International Criminal Court (ICC) heads the [ICC Registry](#) and is responsible for its effective functioning.

The Registry, which operates under the authority of the ICC president, provides services to the other organs of the Court and carries out its own activities, including:

1. **Judicial support**, such as translation and interpretation, management of court records, support to victims' participation and the appearance of witnesses in proceedings, administration of legal aid and other counsel support, and detention center management;
2. **External affairs**, such as public information and outreach, field office support, and external relations; and
3. **Management**, such as the Court's budget, human resources, security, and other administrative services.

The registrar is elected by the plenary of ICC judges for a five-year term and is eligible for re-election once. To date, the Court has had four registrars, three men and one woman, all nationals of the Western European and Other Group.

### How is the ICC registrar elected?

The election of the registrar is governed by [Rome Statute](#) article 43 and rule 12 of the Court's [Rules of Procedure and Evidence](#), as well as by practices developed in previous elections. The following steps will lead to the election of the next registrar in March 2023.

#### The Application Process

A [vacancy announcement](#) for the position, drafted by the Court with the input of states parties, is publicly advertised by the Court and is made available on the Court website. Applications are open to qualified individuals and do not require nomination by a state. For this election, the [vacancy announcement](#) was posted on 22 February 2022, with a deadline for applications of 1 May 2022.

The **applications** received are assessed by the Court's Human Resources section based on the minimum requirements stipulated in the vacancy announcement. The section submits a **longlist of candidates** meeting the requirements to the ICC presidency. The ICC presidency is composed of the Court's president and its two vice-presidents.

#### The Election Process

The ICC presidency, after reviewing the longlist, prepares a **shortlist of candidates** who satisfy the criteria laid down in Rome Statute article 43(3), see below. The shortlist was shared with the Assembly of States Parties on 17 June 2022. The Assembly will make recommendations on the shortlist, if any, at its December session.

In a new development for this election, candidates will be subject to a ["due diligence" process](#) (that is, a [vetting](#) process) and will take part in public hearings open to states parties and civil society.

The role of the Assembly in the election process itself is to provide a recommendation to the ICC judges. Previous Assembly recommendations regarding registrar elections did not focus on individual candidates but rather indicated additional criteria for the assessment of candidates' qualifications.

The registrar is **elected by the plenary of ICC judges** by absolute majority by secret ballot, taking into account any recommendation by the Assembly of States Parties. If an absolute majority is not achieved in the first round, successive voting rounds shall be held until a candidate obtains an absolute majority.

The election of the next registrar is scheduled to take place in March 2023.

## **What are the necessary qualifications for the ICC registrar?**

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.”

In [previous elections](#), additional criteria for the assessment of candidates' qualifications have been suggested by the Assembly when providing [recommendations](#) to the judges ahead of the election of the registrar. These have included ensuring that the Rome Statute criteria for the election of ICC judges also applies to registrar elections (that is, the representation of the principal legal systems of the world; equitable geographical representation; a fair representation of female and male persons; and legal expertise on specific issues, including, but not limited to, violence against women and children).

National of non-states parties may be considered for the position, but in previous elections the Assembly has recommended the election of a national of a state party to the Rome Statute.

## **Timeline for the ICC registrar election**

- **February 2022** : Vacancy announcement published
- **1 May 2022**: Deadline for applications
- **June 2022**: Publication of the shortlist of candidates by the ICC presidency, to be shared with states parties
- **August-September 2022**: Due diligence process.
- **11/12 October 2022**: Public roundtables with candidates.
- **December 2022** – Recommendation, if any, by the Assembly to ICC judges
- **March 2023** – Election of the registrar by the plenary of ICC judges