



Vetting for all ICC elections: the essential elements unpacked

Side event at the 21st session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the Rome Statute
*Hosted by the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, Human Rights Watch,
and the Global Justice Center*

Co-sponsored by Austria, Colombia, and Serbia

~

Tuesday, 6 December 2022 | 13h15-14h45 | Antarctica Room

A light lunch will be served

~

Join key stakeholders and experts who will explore the next steps in the development of a permanent vetting process for all International Criminal Court (ICC) and Assembly of States Parties (ASP) elections.

ICC States Parties tasked the [ASP Bureau](#) in the [2021 omnibus resolution](#) to continue consultations for developing a permanent vetting process for all ICC officials, with a view to adoption as soon as feasible and no later than its 22nd session in December 2023. Civil society organisations, including the Coalition for the ICC, continue to actively engage with States to ensure elected ICC officials possess a “high moral character” in accordance with the Rome Statute. This is needed to tackle the [Independent Expert Review’s \(IER\) 2020 findings](#), namely that the Court has a workplace “culture of fear” including “predatory behaviour” which is “adversarial and implicitly discriminatory against women”. Any real improvements must come from ICC leadership.

The October 2022 [Lessons Learnt Report](#) on the third election of the ICC Prosecutor confirmed support of many States Parties for the development of a such permanent vetting process for all ICC elections and laid out some of the critical questions and issues that need to be unpacked and resolved in order to achieve this goal. What should a permanent vetting process look like? Which essential elements are required to ensure robust and effective vetting? What do we mean by ‘high moral character’, ‘misconduct’, ‘due process’, ‘safety’, ‘transparency’, etc.? Are there international and domestic best practices that the Assembly can draw from? The panel will discuss these key questions and more in timely and interactive discussion in the margins of the 21st ASP.

Agenda

13:20 – 13:25: Welcome & Introduction

- **Ksenija Milenković**, Ambassador of Serbia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands in The Hague

13:25-13:35: Opening remarks

- **Priya Gopalan**, International criminal lawyer and gender specialist will offer insights on using a gender lens, and how an intersectional approach should be applied in the design of a permanent vetting process, and during the assessment of candidates' high moral character

13:35-14:20: Panel discussion

- **Géraldine Danhoui**, President of the ICC Staff Union Council will provide the perspective of ICC staff who are directly impacted by the vetting gap
- **Saklaine Hedaraly**, Head of the ICC's Internal Oversight Mechanism will share insights on the first two ad hoc vetting processes and ways the process can still be strengthened
- **Ekaterina Tomashchuk**, Managing Director at Mintz Group (multinational vetting firm) will explain vetting practices at other international organisations and companies and how these may be adapted at the ICC

14:20-14:35: Questions and discussion with the audience

14:35-14:45: Concluding remarks

- **Alexander Marschik**, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in New York

Moderation: **Danya Chaikel**, Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)
