



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12 September 2017

**Panel discussion with ICC judicial candidates - 18 Sept @ 10.00 CET**

**The Hague**—The Coalition for the International Criminal Court is pleased to invite you to three panel discussions with the twelve candidates vying for election to six judicial positions on the ICC bench in 2017.

The event takes place from 10.00 CET on 18 September 2017 in The Hague. Please see below for registration details.

The event will also broadcast live on [www.coalitionfortheicc.org](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org) and on YouTube [www.youtube.com/user/CoalitionfortheICC](http://www.youtube.com/user/CoalitionfortheICC).

As part of its long-standing Campaign on ICC Elections, the Coalition is hosting the panel discussions to give representatives of states, civil society and the wider public an opportunity to learn more about the qualifications, experience, and expectations for international justice of all the candidates nominated for election to the position of ICC judge at the 16th Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute in December 2017.

**Please confirm your attendance by emailing [ciccinthague3@coalitionfortheicc.org](mailto:ciccinthague3@coalitionfortheicc.org) at the latest on Thursday 14 September. Prior registration and a valid ID are necessary to allow entry into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Rijnstraat 8, 2515 XP, The Hague, The Netherlands. French interpretation will also be provided.**

ICC member states Lesotho, Uganda, Croatia, Mongolia, Benin, Japan, Bosnia, Peru, Uruguay, Canada, Ghana and Italy have nominated 12 candidates for election to six soon-to-be vacant judicial positions at The Hague-based Court.

The election follows the Court's regular judicial elections process, which replaces a third of the 18 judges' bench every three years. The new judges will serve a nine-year term from March 2018.

The Coalition for the ICC as a whole does not endorse or oppose any individual candidates, but rather campaigns for states to nominate and elect highly-qualified and independent candidates to key positions in the Rome Statute system through fair, transparent, and merit-based nomination and election processes.

Governments must elect the best leaders to the ICC to ensure effective and impartial justice. The Coalition strongly opposes reciprocal political agreements ("vote-trading") in all ICC and ASP elections.

To ensure that the ICC bench is representative of gender, geographical representation and legal expertise, each judicial election has minimum voting requirements (MVRs). The following MVRs are in place in 2017: five female candidates; one from Asia-Pacific; one from

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Africa; one from Latin America and the Caribbean; one with specific expertise in criminal law and procedure (“List A”); and one with specific expertise in international law (“List B”). At least double these numbers need to be nominated.

As five of the six outgoing ICC judges are women, the Coalition campaigned to ensure that female candidates were nominated by states to ensure fair gender representation on the ICC bench.

The Coalition has also requested each judicial candidate to complete a questionnaire on their background, qualifications, experience and views relating to their candidacy.

All nominating states additionally submitted a short overview of the national nomination process for ICC judicial election candidates.

The event will be live-Tweeted on the Coalition Twitter account <https://twitter.com/ngos4justice>.

You are welcome to submit questions before or during the event via reply to this email, and on Twitter with the hashtag #ICCElections or #ElecttheBest.

Please note that the judicial candidates will not answer questions related to past, present or potential ICC investigations, preliminary examinations or cases. The Coalition for the ICC reserves the right to select questions submitted remotely.

For more information, questionnaires completed by the candidates and other documentation, please visit our Campaign on ICC Elections webpage: <http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org/fight/icc-elections-2017>.

#### **About the ICC**

*The ICC is the world’s first permanent international court to have jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Central to the Court’s mandate is the principle of complementarity, which holds that the Court will only intervene if national legal systems are unable or unwilling to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. As one of the most historic advances in the protection of global human rights, the innovative system established by the Rome Statute is designed to punish perpetrators, bring justice to victims and contribute to stable, peaceful societies. The Court has already made significant progress in holding those most responsible for atrocities to account. Victims are already receiving help to rebuild their lives. But global access to justice remains uneven, and many governments continue to deny the ICC jurisdiction where it is most needed.*

#### **About us**

*The Coalition for the ICC is a network of 2,500 civil society organizations, small and big, in 150 countries fighting for global justice for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide for over 20 years. We made international justice happen; now we’re making it work.*

[www.coalitionfortheicc.org/](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org/)

COALITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

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