

Note verbale

The Embassy of Japan in the Netherlands presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and, with reference to the Secretariat's note ICC-ASP/7/S/19 dated 15 April 2008, has the honour to inform the latter that the Government of Japan has decided to nominate Judge Fumiko Saiga, for re-election as a Judge of the International Criminal Court, at the elections to be held during the resumed seventh session of the Assembly of States Parties scheduled for 19 to 23 January 2009 in New York.

The nomination of Judge Saiga as a candidate is made in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4 (a), of the Rome Statute.

Judge Saiga is a list B candidate for the purpose of article 36, paragraph 5, of the Rome Statute. She was recently elected Judge of the International Criminal Court at the elections held at the sixth session of the Assembly of States Parties in November 2007 in New York to fill three judicial vacancies. Judge Saiga has established competence in relevant areas of international law such as humanitarian law and the law of human rights, and extensive experience in a professional legal capacity which is relevant to the judicial work of the Court, based not only on her new career as a Judge of the International Criminal Court, but also on her long career as a professional diplomat of Japan. Especially, Judge Saiga's devoted works at the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2001-2007, during which she was re-elected twice, attest to her excellent knowledge and experience of gender issues including violence against women. It is also worth noting that Judge Saiga is the first ever and the only existing female judge from the Asian region, and the only Asian judge on list B, and her re-election would contribute significantly to the maintenance of the regional and gender balances. The statement in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4 (a), of the Rome Statute and the curriculum vitae of Judge Saiga are attached herewith.

Japan has consistently supported the activities of the International Criminal Court since its establishment and, having formally become a State Party to the Rome Statute in October 2007 and being consistently the largest contributor to the Court's budget, intends to remain a strong supporter of the Court. The decision of the Government of Japan to present the candidature of Judge Saiga for re-election as a Judge of the International Criminal Court reflects its firm commitment to continue exerting its utmost efforts to facilitate the activities of the Court. The Government of Japan is fully confident that Judge Saiga possesses the necessary experience, expertise and knowledge in relevant areas of international law, such as humanitarian law and the law of human rights, to continue making a strong contribution to the important work of the Court.