

Reference: ASP/2014/001

Secretariat - Secrétariat

New York, 18 February 2014

Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives
States Parties to the Rome Statute
of the International Criminal Court

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the Secretariat of the Assembly's note verbale ICC-ASP/13/006 dated 18 February 2014, regarding the nomination period for the election of six judges, which will run from 28 April to 20 July 2014 (Central European Time). I would like to take this opportunity to draw to the attention of States Parties intending to present candidates some important issues.

You would recall that the Advisory Committee on the Nominations of judges ("the Committee") is mandated to "facilitate that the highest-qualified individuals are appointed as judges of the International Criminal Court." The Committee will meet after the end of the nomination period to conduct a thorough assessment of candidates, based on the analysis of the supporting documentation as well as on an interview with each candidate.

Furthermore, as regards the format for the presentation of candidatures, I wish to refer to the suggested guidelines for the presentation of nominations in 2014, contained in annex III to the report of the Committee on the work of its second meeting (ICC-ASP/12/47). As indicated by the Committee, the submission of nominations along the lines of the guidelines would assist it in carrying out its assessment more effectively.

After such assessment, the Committee will issue a report that aims at informing the decision-making of States in casting their votes for the best candidates to serve on the bench of the International Criminal Court. In this regard, I wish to draw your attention to paragraph 27 of resolution ICC-ASP/12/Res.8, wherein the Assembly "*Emphasize[d]* the importance of nominating and electing the most highly qualified judges in accordance with article 36 of the Rome Statute, and for this purpose *encourage[d]* States Parties to conduct thorough and transparent processes to identify the best candidates." I would therefore encourage States Parties to ensure that the candidates that they nominate are the most highly qualified to discharge the functions of the high office to which they aspire. It is also important that the candidates be willing, able and fit to assume office when called to service by the Court.

Finally, it is important that States Parties inform candidates fully on the terms, conditions of service applicable to their potential work as judges. If States Parties require any further information on this subject, they are invited to consult the Secretariat of the Assembly at asp@icc-cpi.int.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Tiina Intelmann
President
Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute