



New York, 27 May 2011

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/10/S/04, dated 7 February 2011, regarding the nomination period for the election of judges. This nomination period, which will run from 13 June to 2 September 2011 (Central European Time) is now nearly upon us, and I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight a few important issues to bring to the attention of candidates for judges.

As you will be aware, it is expected that the mandates of some of the judges whose terms of office will expire in March next year will need to be extended to enable them to complete the hearing of trials or appeals in accordance with article 36, paragraph 10 of the Rome Statute. It is therefore to be expected that a number of the judges to be elected at the tenth session of the Assembly in December will not be called up for full-time service for some time after the start of their term.

I hope that States Parties will assist in this effort to nominate highly-qualified candidates who currently fill important and responsible positions, bearing in mind that newly elected judges may in practice have additional time after their formal swearing-in (March 2012) to complete their current business.

I believe it is important that States Parties inform potential candidates of this possibility, and brief them fully on the relevant terms and conditions of service.. 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.

I also wish to draw your attention to operative paragraph 24 of resolution ICC-ASP/9/20, entitled "Strengthening the International Criminal Court and the Assembly of States Parties," wherein the Assembly "[e]mphasize[d] the importance of nominating and electing the most highly qualified judges in accordance with article 36 of the Rome Statute and encourage[d] States Parties to conduct thorough and transparent processes to identify the best candidates."

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

Christian Wenaweser
President
Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute