

The Embassy of Colombia in The Hague presents its compliments to the Permanent Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties, and has the honour to inform the Secretariat that the Government of Colombia has decided to nominate Mr. Eduardo Cifuentes as a candidate to the post of judge to the International Criminal Court, under List A, for the elections to be held during the tenth session of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court, at the United Nations Headquarters, in New York, from 12 to 21 December 2011.

This nomination is in accordance with the terms of article 36, paragraph 4 (a) (ii), of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

In his longstanding academic and professional career, Eduardo Cifuentes has demonstrated a wide and deep knowledge of criminal law and criminal procedure, as well as an outstanding expertise in international human rights law. After several years as professor at Los Andes University in Colombia, he was appointed as Justice at the Colombian Constitutional Court, where he became its Chief Justice in 1999.

In 2000 Eduardo Cifuentes was elected by the Colombian Congress as Ombudsperson, one of the most important public officers in charge of human rights protection as well as the Chief Officer for public criminal defence.

His first public act as Colombian Ombudsperson was to propose and promote a Constitutional amendment in order to facilitate the ratification of the Rome Statute.

In recent years, Eduardo Cifuentes has been appointed by the plenary of the Constitutional Court as associate judge (*conjuez*) of the Court. This appointment demonstrates the high regard for his moral and ethical integrity and the objectivity that has led all his decisions while holding public offices.

The important results he achieved as Chief Justice as well as Ombudsperson, led to the appointment of Eduardo Cifuentes as Director of the Human Rights Division at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Headquarters in Paris, where he continued promoting the defence of social, economic and cultural rights of minorities and also engaged in the fight against human discrimination. The candidate is fluent in oral and written Spanish (native), English, and Italian, and has a good level of French.

In 2005, Eduardo Cifuentes was appointed as Dean of Los Andes School of Law, which is one of the best and most important schools of law in Latin America. During his six years as Dean, he promoted academic research and debate on several subjects, especially on international humanitarian law and human rights. Several publications of Los Andes Law school demonstrate the influence and the active participation of Eduardo Cifuentes in the defence of displaced victims, Afro-descendant communities, and in general every minority affected by violence.

The nomination of Eduardo Cifuentes expresses not only the true belief of the Government of Colombia of the need to present a candidate with high moral standards and ethical values. It also represents the Government's commitment to the protection of human rights. Eduardo Cifuentes also symbolizes the essential affirmative action in defence of the rights of victims that started with the adoption of the Colombian Constitution of 1991.

The candidature of Eduardo Cifuentes underscores the commitment of the Colombian people to the empire of Justice as the only secured way to live in peace, as it was stated at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute that took place in Kampala, Uganda, on June, 2010.

The statement prepared in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4 (a), of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the curriculum vitae of Mr. Eduardo Cifuentes are attached to this note.