

Statement of qualifications

Detailed statement drawn up pursuant to article 36, paragraph 4 (a) of the Rome Statute and paragraph 6 of the Assembly of States Parties Resolution on the Procedure for the nomination and election of judges, the Prosecutor and Deputy Prosecutors of the International Criminal Court

The Government of the French Republic has decided to nominate Mr Bruno Cathala, a French judge who is currently President of the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Evry, to the post of judge of the International Criminal Court with a view to the elections to be held during the 10th Session of the Assembly of States Parties from 12 to 21 December 2011 in New York.

Mr Bruno Cathala's candidacy for this election was selected under article 36, paragraph 4 (a) (ii) of the Statute whereby "Nominations of candidates for election to the Court may be made [...] By the procedure provided for the nomination of candidates for the International Court of Justice in the Statute of that Court." It was submitted to the Government by the French Group of the Permanent Court of Arbitration following a public call for candidates.

Mr Bruno Cathala is being nominated for inclusion in List A which contains the names of candidates with "established competence in criminal law and procedure, and the necessary relevant experience, whether as judge, prosecutor, advocate or in other similar capacity ..." [article 36, paragraphs 3 (b) (1) and paragraph 5 of the Statute of the Court].

Mr Bruno Cathala meets all the experience and seniority requirements for appointment to the highest judicial offices as laid down in article 36, paragraph 3 (a) of the Statute of the Court, and possesses the more specific qualifications provided for in article 36, paragraph 8 (b) of that same Statute.

Mr Cathala – whose curriculum vitae is attached – has devoted his career to the profession of judge in all its aspects, particularly criminal law, criminal procedure and the reflection on the office of judge and its ethics. Mr Cathala has constantly sought to ensure respect for the principles of due process, to preside efficiently over complex hearings in the presence of many victims, and to draft decisions without delay. He has in-depth experience in heading courts and judicial services, and thorough experience of international criminal courts.

Mr Bruno Cathala has been President of the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Evry for more than three years. This is one of the most important courts in France, which deals with a great many heavy and complex criminal cases and where sessions are held by the Assize Court (which is in charge of judging crimes). Mr Cathala was formerly President of the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Montargis from 1990 to 1994 and Vice-President of the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Créteil (jurisdiction of the Paris Court of Appeal) from 1996 to 1999.

Since the start of his career, Mr Bruno Cathala has developed an in-depth knowledge of child welfare and minor victims. He served as a children's court judge from 1983 to 1987 and was, in that capacity, in charge of the protection of youth under the age of 18 and their delinquency. He was a senior lecturer, in charge of teaching future children's court judges at the French National School for the Judiciary (ENM) from 1987 to 1990. He later served as Deputy Director of the judicial protection of juveniles at the French Ministry of Justice from 1994 to 1996. As Inspector of Judiciary Services in Paris, among other functions, he drafted a report on child welfare.

Mr Bruno Cathala possesses an established international experience. He formerly served international criminal courts in his capacity as Deputy Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in 2001-2002. He was the first appointed Registrar of the International Criminal Court from 2003 to 2008.

Mr Cathala speaks French and English.

He is a French national.