

Statement of qualifications

In accordance with paragraph 7 of the resolution on the procedure for the election of judges at the International Criminal Court and article 36 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Philippine Government has the honor to transmit the following nomination statement on the candidature of Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago:

A. Information on Senator Santiago's qualifications

1. Senator Santiago fulfills the requirements under article 36, paragraph 3, subparagraph (a), of the Statute. She is a person of high moral character, impartiality and integrity who possess the qualifications required by Philippine law for appointment to the highest judicial offices.

Senator Santiago has the distinction of having served in all three branches of Government aside from being a highly regarded member of the academe. She served as Presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court from 1983-1987. She was head of the Commission on Immigration and Deportation from 1988-1989. She was appointed Secretary (Minister) of Agrarian Reform in 1989.

The Filipino people's belief in her moral integrity has been proven time and again by her election as Senator of the Republic of the Philippines from 1995 to 2001, 2004 to 2010 and again for the term 2010-2016. She also stood for election as President of the Republic of the Philippines in 1992 and received the second highest number of votes.

She was a professorial lecturer on constitutional and international law in the University of the Philippines College of Law for 12 years and has authored numerous books on these topics that are still being used today in law schools throughout the Philippines.

Her long service in government in various capacities has brought many accolades and distinctions to Senator Santiago and is further proof of her capability and moral integrity. Her experience as both a public servant and academician has also provided her with a broad vision which will serve her well as a judge in the Court.

2. Senator Santiago fulfills the requirements under article 36, paragraph 3, subparagraph (b) (ii), of the Statute.

Academic background

Senator Santiago received her doctorate degree in law at the University of Michigan as a Barbour Scholar and DeWitt Fellow. Her subsequent postdoctoral studies focused mainly on international law.

Work experience

Senator Santiago has established competence in international law in the following capacities:

- as Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate of the Republic of the Philippines from 2004-2010;
- as part of the 2000 United Nations roster of eminent and highly qualified experts in international law;

- as resource person and speaker in numerous local and international conferences and fora, on topics such as international humanitarian law, international refugee law, gender law, and the Rome Statute;
 - as an author on international law;
 - as professorial lecturer in the University of the Philippines from 1976 to 1988;
 - as legal consultant of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. in 1982; and
 - as legal officer of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 1979 to 1980.
3. Senator Santiago fulfills the requirements under article 36, paragraph 3, subparagraph (c), of the Statute as she is fluent in English, one of the working languages of the Court.
- B. In fulfillment of article 36, paragraph 5, of the Statute, Senator Santiago's qualifications listed in section A2 of this nomination statement qualifies her under List B.
- C. Information relating to article 36, paragraph 8 (a) (i) to (iii), of the Statute

Senator Santiago's nomination takes into account the following:

1. In nominating Senator Santiago, the Philippine Government hopes to contribute to a better representation of the legal systems of the world. Philippine law is based on a combination of both civil and common law.
 2. Developing countries in Asia have had only one representative in the Court and the Philippine Government hopes that this nomination will contribute to a more equitable geographical representation.
 3. The Philippines takes pride in being gender-sensitive and has fielded candidatures with more female nominees for posts in the various international bodies reflecting the gender ratio in its demographic profile.
- D. Information relating to article 36, paragraph 8(b), of the Statute

The information presented under Section A2 and in Senator Santiago's curriculum vitae contains the Philippine candidate's qualification in international humanitarian law. It should be noted that Senator Santiago's competencies and background also qualifies her under List A.

- E. Senator Santiago is a national of the Philippines. The Philippines deposited its instrument of ratification to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 30 August 2011. The Statute will enter into force for the Philippines on 1 November 2011, making it the 117th State to join the Rome Statute system.

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