

Akane, Tomoko (Japan)

[Original: English]

Note verbale

The Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of the Netherlands presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and with reference to the Secretariat's note ICC-ASP/16/SP/07 dated 7 March 2017, has the honour to inform the latter that the Government of Japan has decided to nominate Ms. Tomoko Akane, Public Prosecutor, Supreme Public Prosecutors Office of Japan, and Ambassador for International Judicial Cooperation, as a candidate for judge of the International Criminal Court for the term 2018 to 2027, at the elections to be held during the sixteenth session of the Assembly of States Parties scheduled for 4 to 14 December 2017.

The nomination of Ms. Akane is made in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4(a), of the Rome Statute.

Ms. Akane is a List A candidate for the purposes of article 36, paragraph 5, of the Rome Statute. She has a long and successful career, both as a highly competent public prosecutor experienced in various kinds of criminal cases through investigation, prosecution, trial and appeal, legislative activities and education of prosecutors, and as a leading expert in legal technical assistance in international fields, including through the activities of the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders affiliated with the United Nations (UNAFEI). As an academic professor, Ms. Akane has also undertaken research and teaching activities in criminal affairs. Most recently, Ms. Akane headed the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice of Japan, an institute specialized in legal research, training of officials of the Ministry, and technical assistance to other countries conducted under the auspices of the Ministry. Currently, she serves as Public Prosecutor, Supreme Public Prosecutors Office of Japan, and as Ambassador for International Judicial Cooperation in charge of promoting international cooperation in the field of justice. These experiences clearly demonstrate her qualifications as a candidate with established competence in criminal law and court procedures with the necessary relevant experiences as public prosecutor in criminal proceedings.

It is also important to note that, as a female candidate from Asia-Pacific, the election of Ms. Akane would contribute to improving the gender balance and maintaining the regional balance in the composition of judges of the Court. The statement of qualifications prepared in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4(a), of the Rome Statute and the curriculum vitae of Ms. Akane are attached herewith.

Japan has consistently supported the activities of the International Criminal Court since its establishment and, having formally become a State Party to the Rome Statute in October 2007, intends to remain a strong supporter of the Court. The decision of the Government of Japan to present the candidature of Ms. Akane for election as a judge of the Court reflects its firm commitment to continue exerting utmost efforts to facilitate the activities of the Court, thus contributing to the promotion of the rule of law in the international community. The Government of Japan is fully confident that Ms. Akane possesses the necessary experience, expertise and knowledge in relevant areas of criminal law and procedure, and would add a strong contribution to the important work of the Court.
