

# GEORGIA

[Original: English]

Ordinance No 59  
of the Government of Georgia of 30 January 2020  
Tbilisi

## Article 1

In accordance with Article 36 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court ('the Rome Statute'), the attached Procedure for Selecting a Candidate for Judge to be Nominated from Georgia for the Election at the International Criminal Court in 2020 ('the Selection Procedure') shall be approved.

## Article 2

The list of candidates for judge drawn up in compliance with the Selection Procedure shall be submitted to the Government of Georgia not later than 6 March 2020. Ordinance No 126 of the Government of Georgia of 21 February 2020 – website,

21.2.2020

## Article 3

This Ordinance shall enter into force upon its promulgation.

Prime Minister

Giorgi Gakharia

Procedure for Selecting a Candidate for Judge to be nominated from  
Georgia for Election to the International Criminal Court in 2020

## Article 1

1. A candidate for judge to be nominated from Georgia for the election at the International Criminal Court ('The Hague Court') in 2020 ('the candidate for judge') shall be selected in accordance with the requirements of Article 36 of the Rome Statute.

2. In order to identify a candidate for judge to be nominated to the Assembly of States Parties of The Hague Court from Georgia for election to the International Criminal Court in 2020, the procedure for selecting a candidate for judge shall be coordinated by the Legal Entity under Public Law called the Training Center of Justice of Georgia ('the Training Center of Justice'), which shall nominate to the Government of Georgia not more than five of the best candidates selected on the basis of this Procedure.

3. The Government of Georgia shall nominate two out of the five nominated

candidates to the Parliament of Georgia for evaluation. The Parliament of Georgia shall be requested to evaluate the candidates for judge in accordance with the requirements of Article 36 of the Rome Statute and to approve one candidate under the hearing and voting procedure established by law for the election of a candidate for a member of the Constitutional Court of Georgia.

Ordinance No 126 of the Government of Georgia of 21 February 2020 – website, 21.2.2020

Article 2. A candidate for judge to be nominated from Georgia for election to The Hague Court shall be a legally capable citizen of Georgia of high moral principles and professional reputation, who has attained the age of 35, is fluent in one of the working languages of The Hague Court (the English or French languages) and meets the requirements determined by paragraphs (a) (Category A) or (b) (Category B) of this Article:

a) Category A:

a.a) holds an academic degree of Master of Laws, where the degree programme covered criminal law or international criminal law;

a.b) has not less than 10 years experience working as a judge, prosecutor and/or lawyer in the area of criminal law or in a similar position in the area of criminal procedure;

a.c) has a thorough knowledge of the Rome Statute and the relevant case law;

b) Category B:

b.a) holds an academic degree of Master of Laws, where the degree programme covered public international law, especially international human rights law and international humanitarian law;

b.b) has not less than 10 years experience working with international courts, or international organisations and international courts, on issues of international criminal law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law;

b.c) has a thorough knowledge of the Rome Statute and the relevant case law, as well as public international law in the areas of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Article 3.

1. For the purpose of selecting candidates for judges, the Training Center of Justice shall publish a vacancy and shall ensure its maximum accessibility. To this end, the Training Center of Justice shall officially submit the vacancy information to the Constitutional Court of Georgia, the High Council of Justice of Georgia, the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, the Georgian Bar Association, higher educational institutions in Georgia, and non-governmental organisations operating in the relevant field.

2. Persons interested in the vacancy shall submit documents within 10 calendar days

after the vacancy has been published. By a decision of the Training Center of Justice, this period may be extended by 7 calendar days.

3. A candidate shall submit his/her Curriculum Vitae, and shall explain in detail and

clearly how he/she meets the criteria established by Article 2 of this Procedure, and shall accompany his/her application with documents supporting the information provided therein.

4. A Curriculum Vitae shall be drawn up both in the Georgian language and in the English or French language, in accordance with a template established by the Assembly of States Parties of The Hague Court, which is provided in the Annex to this Procedure. An explanation of how the candidate meets the criteria established by

Article 2 of this Procedure shall be drawn up on a separate sheet of paper both in the Georgian language and in one of the working languages of The Hague Court (the English or French language).

5. A candidate shall indicate in which working language of The Hague Court he/she wishes to complete the competition procedure provided for by Article 4 of this Procedure.

6. If incomplete documents have been submitted, the candidate shall be given 3 days to remedy the shortcoming. Where the candidate fails to remedy the shortcoming within the said period, his/her application shall not be admitted.

Ordinance No 126 of the Government of Georgia of 21 February 2020 – website, 21.2.2020

Article 4.

1. The Training Center of Justice shall carry out the initial screening of competition applications on the basis of the assessment of the documents and the information provided for by Article 3 of this Procedure.

2. For the purposes of establishing the compliance of the candidates, selected for the next stage following the initial screening of the competition applications, with the requirements provided for by Article 2(a.c) and (b.c), the Training Center of Justice shall conduct a test in the English or French language, and the assignments of the test shall be drawn up, and fulfilled assignments shall be assessed based on a 10-point system, by a consultant(s) invited by the Training Center of Justice.

3. A consultant, as provided for by paragraph 2 of this article, shall have significant experience of working in the system of The Hague Court or in criminal tribunals.

4. The Training Center of Justice shall present to the Government of Georgia as many candidates as receive at least 6 points in the test. If the number of such candidates exceeds five, the five candidates who have received the best scores in the test, shall be selected and nominated to the Government of Georgia. If none of the candidates complies with the requirements provided for by Article 2(a.c) and (b.c) of this Procedure, or if none of the candidates receives at least 6 points in the test, the Training Center of Justice shall start over the process of selecting candidates in accordance with this Procedure.

5. The Government of Georgia shall nominate to the Parliament of Georgia one candidate, or not more than two candidates, out of the candidates nominated to the Government of Georgia. If the Government of Georgia does not approve any of the candidates, the Training Center for Justice shall start over the process of selecting candidates in accordance with this Procedure.

6. The Parliament of Georgia shall be requested to select and approve one candidate through a hearing and voting procedure established for electing members to the Constitutional Court of Georgia. If the Parliament of Georgia does not approve a candidate for judge, the Government of Georgia shall be authorised to nominate to the Parliament of Georgia the other candidates nominated to it in accordance with this Procedure. In the absence of such candidates, the Training Center of Justice shall start over the process of selecting candidates in accordance with this Procedure.

7. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia shall, through the diplomatic mission, nominate to the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties of The Hague Court a candidate for judge who has been approved by the Parliament of Georgia and who is to be nominated from Georgia for election to The Hague Court.

### Report on Administering the Stage of Selection

by the LEPL Training Center of Justice of Georgia of Candidates for Judge to be  
nominated from Georgia to the International Criminal Court in 2020

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#### **1. Legal basis**

In accordance with Article 2 of the Procedure for Selecting a Candidate for Judge to be Nominated from Georgia for Election to the International Criminal Court in 2020 ('the Selection Procedure'), approved by Ordinance No 59 of 30 January 2020 of the Government of Georgia, the LEPL Training Center of Justice of Georgia coordinated selection procedures and organised and administered the examination.

Under the said Ordinance, the Training Center of Justice was assigned to nominate not more than 5 candidates to the Government of Georgia, only candidates who had received at least 6 points in the test.

In accordance with the Selection Procedure, the Training Center of Justice of Georgia was receiving applications from 3 February 2020 to 20 February 2020, a period of 17 calendar days.

In accordance with Article 2 of the Selection Procedure, the Training Center of Justice was obliged to nominate the best candidate to the Government of Georgia not later than 28 February 2020. This deadline was amended by Ordinance No 126 of 21 February 2020 and was extended until 6 March 2020.

#### **2. Publication of the vacancy announcement and dissemination of information**

In accordance with Article 3(1) of the **Selection Procedure**, on 3 February, the Training Center of Justice published the vacancy information and ensured its maximum accessibility.

The information was communicated to:

- the Constitutional Court of Georgia
- the Supreme Court of Georgia
- the High Council of Justice of Georgia

- the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia
- the Georgian Bar Association
- the Georgian Association of Mediators
- authorised higher educational institutions of Georgia which offer law programmes
- the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, the steering organisation of the Georgian Coalition for the International Criminal Court.

In its letter No14/48 of 31 January 2020, the Training Center of Justice requested the LEPL Education Management Information System to provide a list of authorised higher educational institutions offering law programmes. The Training Center of Justice disseminated the vacancy information based on the list received.

A letter was sent to the **Georgian Young Lawyers' Association**, the steering non-governmental organisation of the Georgian Coalition for the International Criminal Court, for the purposes of providing the information to the member organisations of the Georgian Coalition for the International Criminal Court and other non-governmental organisations operating in this area: the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), Justice International, the International Center on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN),



Article 42 of the Constitution, the Georgian Centre of Psychological and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (GCRT), and the Human Rights Center (HRC).

As part of the process of the selection of candidates for a judge to be nominated from Georgia to the International Criminal Court, a total of six notices/letters<sup>1</sup> were sent to agencies, one to a non-governmental organisation, and 29 to universities.

To provide detailed vacancy information, telephone communication with the agencies and organisations took place on 6 February 2020.



Within the framework of an information meeting held on 11 February 2020s, 11:00 am, the invited persons<sup>2</sup> received detailed information on the criteria for selecting candidates for a judge to be nominated from Georgia to the International Criminal Court and on admission procedures. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, the High Council of Justice and the non-governmental organisations: the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, and the Human Rights Center.



Association, as well as the Faculty of Law of Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University, ensured that the

vacancy announcement was placed on official websites.



Training Center of  
Justice of Georgia

- 1 The vacancy information was sent through the Electronic Document Management System, and to the official email addresses of the organisations.
- 2 An electronic invitation to the meeting was sent to all agencies provided by the ordinance, non-governmental organisations and universities.



The vacancy information was disseminated by various information agencies (the Georgian News Agency (GHN) and other agencies). In addition, on 6 and 7 February, First Channel and TV Imedi prepared respective reports, which were broadcast on television.

[*photographs*]

**The announcement was made public through various means of communication:**

- the website administered by Jobs.Ge LLC - [www.jobs.ge](http://www.jobs.ge);
- the website of the LEPL Civil Service Bureau - [www.hr.gov.ge](http://www.hr.gov.ge);
- the website of the Training Center of Justice - [www.tcj.gov.ge](http://www.tcj.gov.ge);
- the social networking site - (Facebook: Training Center of Justice - TCJ see [the link](#))
- the information meeting<sup>3</sup> at the administrative building of the Training Center of Justice (Conference Room N2) (see [the link](#)).
- the social networking site of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University ([Facebook](#): TSU Faculty of Law)
- the social networking site of the Georgian Bar Association (see [the link](#)).
- the website of the Georgian Bar Association (see [the link](#)).

**3. Receipt of applications**

For the purpose of registration for the selection competition, the candidates for judge submitted applications both in electronic form (e-mail address: [administracia@tcj.gov.ge](mailto:administracia@tcj.gov.ge)), and in hard copy to the administrative building of the Center located at the address: 1 Ana Politkovskaya Street, Tbilisi.

**According to Article 2 of Ordinance No 59 of 30 January 2020, the candidates for judge had to submit the following documents:**

- a) a **Curriculum Vitae** (CV) in both Georgian and English or French, in the form determined by the Ordinance of the Government of Georgia;
- b) an **explanation** on a separate sheet of paper about how they meet the criteria determined by Article 2, in both Georgian and one of the working languages of The Hague Court (English or French);
- c) information as to in which **working language of the International Criminal Court** (English or French) they wish to complete the competition procedures;
- d) information on whether they wish to complete the competition procedures in the area of **Category A (criminal law)** or **Category B (international law)**;



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<sup>3</sup> An invitation to the information meeting was sent by email to higher educational institutions, agencies provided for by the Ordinance, and non-governmental organisations.



e) **documents evidencing** the information specified in the CV, drawn up in the form determined by the Ordinance of the Government of Georgia.

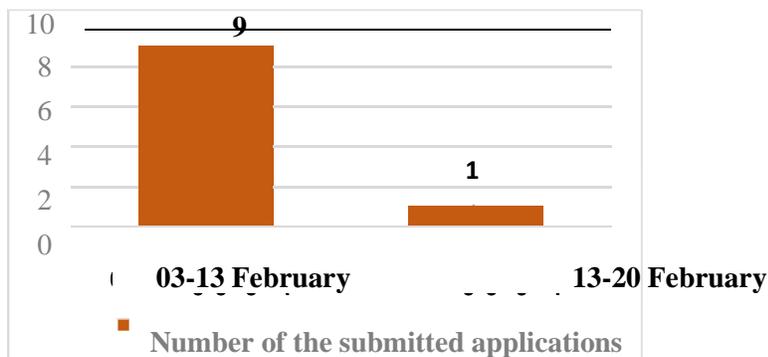
In all, 9 candidates submitted applications from 3 February to 13 February inclusive, two of whom met the requirements established by Article 2 of the Selection Procedure. A shortcoming was detected in the documents submitted by one of the two successful candidates, who was given a 3-day period to rectify it in accordance with the Selection Procedure. The candidate failed to submit the required documents within that period, and in addition informed us that he no longer wanted to participate in the competition.

Due to the shortage of successful candidates, the deadline for the receipt of applications **was extended to 20 February 2020 inclusive**, which information was provided, on 14 February 2020, to all the agencies determined by Article 3(1) of the Ordinance.

By 20 February 2020, during the extension period, an application was submitted by one more candidate, who was given 3 days to submit complete documents under Article 3(6) of the Selection Procedure. The candidate agreed to submit the documents only in part, and also requested to take the written test at a time convenient for the candidate, namely in March, and abroad, where the candidate is currently working and living with family. In cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, the candidate's request was partially granted and the candidate was permitted to take the written test, as the candidate was willing to, at the diplomatic mission of Georgia of the country where the candidate resides, on 25 or 26 February 2020. Eventually, the candidate refused to take the test as the candidate stated that the time would not be enough to prepare for the test, and the candidate requested to withdraw from the competition.

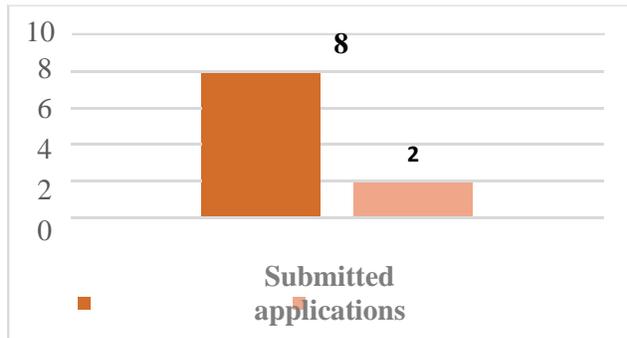
### **3.1. Statistics of submitted applications/number of candidates**

- a) In all, 9 applications were submitted from 3 February to 13 February 2020 inclusive (10 calendar days).  
b) In all, 1 application was submitted from 13 February to 20 February 2020 inclusive (7 calendar days).



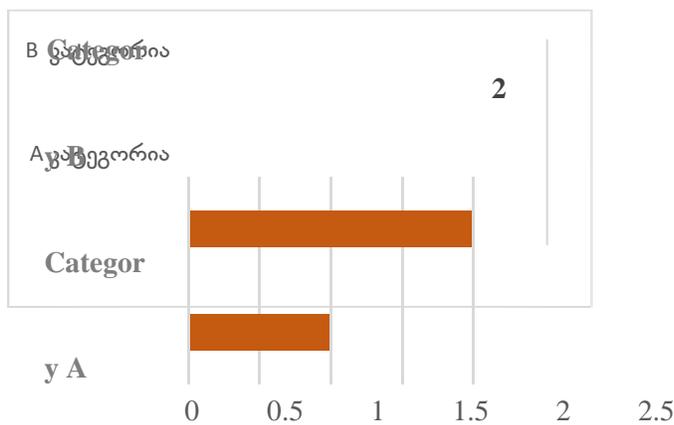


### 3.2. Source of the registration of applications



[www.hr.gov.ge](http://www.hr.gov.ge)  
[administracia@tcj.gov.ge](mailto:administracia@tcj.gov.ge)

#### 3.2.1. Categories



- Only 3 out of 10 applications submitted during the competition met the eligibility criteria. Among those 3 applications, one was for A Category judge and two were for B Category judges.
- Two candidates refused to participate in the competition, and one candidate for B Category judge took the written examination.

### 4. Information about the candidates

According to Article 2 of the Selection Procedure, the information on meeting the eligibility criteria by the registered candidates (age, work experience, education) is given in detail in the table below (candidates names withheld):

N	Name/ surname	Gender	Over the age of 35	Master of Laws	10 years of work experience in criminal law or international	Fluency in a foreign language	Applicatio n was submitted through:	Status
1	Candidate No 1	Male	Failed to meet the eligibility criteria (21 years old)	Failed to meet the eligibility criteria – complete general education	Does not have work experience in the area of criminal law or international law.	English – B2	<a href="http://www.hr.gov.ge">www.hr.gov .ge</a>	Failed to meet the eligibility criteria



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2	<b>Candidate No 2</b>	<b>Male</b>	Age - 53 years old	<b>Failed to meet the eligibility criteria – higher education in Law (Bachelor’s degree)</b>	Does not have work experience in the area of criminal law or international law.	English – A1	<a href="http://www.hr.gov.ge">www.hr.gov .ge</a>	Failed to meet the eligibility criteria
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3	<b>Candidate No 3</b>	<b>Female</b>	Age - 49 years old	<b>Failed to meet the eligibility criteria</b> - higher education, the Faculty of Philology (Bachelor's degree)	Does not have work experience in the area of criminal law or international law.	English – B2	<a href="http://www.hr.gov.ge">www.hr.gov.ge</a>	Failed to meet the eligibility criteria
4	<b>Candidate No 4</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Failed to meet the eligibility criteria</b> (28 years old)	<b>Failed to meet the eligibility criteria</b> - higher education in Law (Bachelor's degree)	Does not have work experience in the area of criminal law or international law.	English – A1	<a href="http://www.hr.gov.ge">www.hr.gov.ge</a>	Failed to meet the eligibility criteria
5	<b>Candidate No 5</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Failed to meet the eligibility criteria</b> (25 years old)	<b>Failed to meet the eligibility criteria</b> - higher education in Law (Bachelor's degree)	Does not have work experience in the area of criminal law or international law.	English – C1	<a href="http://www.hr.gov.ge">www.hr.gov.ge</a>	Failed to meet the eligibility criteria
6	<b>Candidate No 6</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Failed to meet the eligibility criteria</b> (25 years old)	<b>Failed to meet the eligibility criteria</b> - higher education in Law (Bachelor's degree)	Does not have work experience in the area of criminal law or international law.	English – B2	<a href="http://www.hr.gov.ge">www.hr.gov.ge</a>	Failed to meet the eligibility criteria
7	<b>Candidate No 7</b>	<b>Male</b>	Age - 47 years old	Higher education in Law (equal to Master's degree)	Does not have work experience in the area of criminal law or international law.	English – C2, French – C2,	<a href="http://www.hr.gov.ge">www.hr.gov.ge</a>	Failed to meet the eligibility criteria

8	 <b>Candidate No 8</b>	<b>Male</b>	Age - 56 years old	Higher education in Law (Master's degree, PhD candidate)	11 years of international work experience in the area of criminal law, 29 years of experience in the area of international law, including the experience in academic and research work.	English – C2,	<a href="mailto:administracia@tcj.gov.ge">administracia@tcj.gov.ge</a>	<b>Successful</b>
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9	<b>Candidate No 9</b>	<b>Male</b>	Age - 44 years old	Higher education in Law (equal to Master's degree)	17 years of work experience in the area of criminal law.	English – C2,	<a href="http://www.hr.gov.ge">www.hr.gov.ge</a>	<b>1. Successful (failed to submit documents within the period established for rectifying the shortcoming). 2. Refused to participate in the competition.</b>
10	<b>Candidate No 10</b>	<b>Female</b>	Age - 36 years old	Higher education in Law (Master's degree, PhD degree)	10 years of international work experience in the area of criminal/humanitarian law, including the experience in academic and research work.	English – C2, French – C2,	<a href="mailto:administracia@tcj.gov.ge">administracia@tcj.gov.ge</a>	<b>1. Successful (failed to submit documents within the period established for rectifying the shortcoming). 2. Refused to participate in the competition at the stage of the examination.</b>

### 5. Testing

In accordance with Article 4 (2) of the Selection Procedure approved on the basis of ordinance No 59, as a result of the initial selection of applications to participate in the competition, the test was taken by one successful candidate (Category B).



The duration of test is 6 (six) hours.

**Break:** 30 minutes.

**Test date/time:** 20 February 2020, 9 a.m.

**Address:** Room B3, the Training Center of Justice, N1 Ana Politkovskaya Street, Tbilisi.

**Test format:** Test in the English language (including, three questions on theory, three questions on practice).

The testing process, within the scope of authority granted under the Regulations, was observed by an authorised person(s) of the Testing Coordinating Unit of the Training Center of Justice (depending on the sessions). During the testing process no supplementary material (legal acts, manuals, etc.) was available to the candidate. Also, while working on the test paper electronically, access to the Internet was restricted. After the completion of testing, the observer printed out the test paper which was certified by the candidate's signature on all pages.



The test paper completed by the candidate was sent by the Training Center of Justice for assessment, in anonymous form, to the experts engaged for the testing date (20 February) via electronic communication means.

The engaged experts completed their work within the scope of pro bono services. In particular, three open questions on theory were prepared by **Ekaterina Trendafilova, a former judge of the International Criminal Court**, and three questions on practice were prepared by **Herman von Hebel, a former Registrar of the International Criminal Court**. The consultants expressed their consent to disclose their identity from the moment of their submission of the results of assessment conducted by them to the Government of Georgia.

Communication with the experts was conducted by the Director of the Center via electronic mail. The assessment results were received by the Training Center of Justice on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2020. The received results of assessment, the test paper and the documents submitted by the candidates are kept in hard copies at the Administrative Service.

To ensure the safety of personal data submitted electronically by the candidates, before the end of the selection stage, user access to the electronic mail of the Center ([Administracia@tcj.gov.ge](mailto:Administracia@tcj.gov.ge)) was restricted, which excluded the non-authorized access of persons to personal data. And, after the completion of the selection stage, the personal data of all candidates existing on the electronic mail were destroyed.

Before the beginning of testing, the candidate was given an explanation concerning the processing/dissemination of personal data within the framework of the competition.

#### **6. Nomination of a candidate before the Government**

In compliance with the Selection Procedure, on 5 March 2020 the Training Center of Justice nominated to the Government of Georgia a successful candidate, **Mr. Gocha Lordkipanidze**.

The candidate's Curriculum Vitae (*Curriculum Vitae*) in the Georgian and English languages was attached to the letter, as well as an explanation as to how the candidate complied with the criteria established under Article 2 (b) of the Procedure for Selecting a Candidate (Category B).



**Resolution  
of the Parliament of Georgia**

**On Nominating Gocha Lortkipanidze as a Candidate for Judge for Election to the International Criminal Court**

In accordance with Article 208<sup>1</sup>(1) and (6) of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia,

the Parliament of Georgia shall establish the following:

1. Gocha Lortkipanidze shall be nominated as a candidate for judge for election to the International Criminal Court.
2. This Resolution shall enter into force upon its adoption.

**Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia**

**Archil Talakvadze**

**Tbilisi**

**20 March 2020**

**No 5861-III**



([http://  
www.  
Parliament of  
Georgia](http://www.Parliament of Georgia))

*[Photograph]*

## **The Plenary Session of the Parliament**

20 Mar 2020

The Parliament approved the nomination of the Deputy Justice Minister **Gocha Lortkipanidze** as the Judge to the Hague International Criminal Court.

MPs discussed the respective draft resolution approved it with 91 votes.

*[Photograph]*

The Speaker, **Archil Talakvadze** congratulated the candidate: **“He will be finally approved as the Judge of the International Criminal Court and I am glad that his candidacy was unanimously approved. He does deserve this support from the Parliament of Georgia. I would like to wish him good luck on his new position”.**

The First Vice-Speaker, **Gia Volski** underlined high professionalism of the candidate: **“It is a person who was always brave and modest, not manifesting pomposity in the hard situation which we have been encountering and he demonstrated the high professional level when operating in the first diplomatic missions against the insufficient experience of Georgia at the international theatre. He has higher education, has a wonderful family and I believe, we will have the high-level representative at the international level”.** Independent MP **Eka Beselia** also approved the candidate stating that **Georgia shall have a representative in the ICC: “I hope that Mr. Lortkipanidze will be through all the procedures and Georgia will have a dignified representative.”**

The Chair of the Legal Committee, **Anri Okhanashvili** introduced the bills with the III reading: Criminal Code of Practice; and the Juvenile Justice Code, which later were approved by the Parliament.

[www.parliament.ge/en/saparlamento-saqmianoba/plenaruli-sxdomebi/plenaruli-sxdomebi\\_news/parlamentis-plenaruli-sxdoma20032020.page](http://www.parliament.ge/en/saparlamento-saqmianoba/plenaruli-sxdomebi/plenaruli-sxdomebi_news/parlamentis-plenaruli-sxdoma20032020.page)

3/26/2020  
Parliament of Georgia

The Plenary Session of the Parliament -

[*photographs*]

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([http://  
www.  
Parliament of  
Georgia](http://www.Parliament of Georgia))

**The Legal Issues Committee approved the nomination of Gocha Lortkipanidze as the Judge to the International Criminal Court**

20 Mar 2020

[*Photograph*]

The Committee heard **Gocha Lortkipanidze** as the candidate for the Judge to the ICC.

According to the Chair **Anri Okhanashvili** Georgia enjoys the opportunity to nominate own representative to the high-level International Court. **The International Criminal Court is the first standing institution equipped with the competence to consider the cases of four key crimes: crime against humankind,**

[*Photograph*]

**genocide, war and aggression. Where the countries agree that if they fail to realize their jurisdiction within the country, they the jurisdiction shall be delegated to the International Criminal Court and thus, it is the high-level international instance where Georgia can designate its own representative”.**

Selection of the candidates to the ICC is being held on a high level and by the competition. The

Chair introduced the selection process and the biographic data of the candidate.

G. Lortkipanidze delivered the speech to the Committee and noted that he is highly honored to be nominated as the Judge to the ICC within the national procedures which take place for the first time.

He spoke about his previous activity and his vision about the ICC.

The candidate answered the questions. 9 members of the Committee, by secret ballot, approved the candidate for the ICC as he complies with the Rome Statute requirements and these members also approved the conclusion of the Committee providing the recommendation about nomination of G. Lortkipanidze to the ICC.

A. Okhanashvili also introduced the address by the Vice-Speaker, Sergi Kapanadze stating that despite the political boycott and absence of the European Georgia's Factions at the plenary sessions, they approve the candidate. The Committee will submit the conclusion to the Bureau.

The Committee discussed the bills with the III reading submitted for accelerated consideration on: Criminal Code of Practice; Juvenile Justice Code. The bill on CCP envisages compliance of the norms of the Code with the Judgment of the Constitutional Court of October 24, 2019 №2/12/1237 and regulates the right of the defense to interrogate the witness at the investigation stage.

The bill on JJC envisages application of the norm stipulated under the CCP upon interrogation of the juvenile but fails to envisage the reservation admitting interrogation of a person in capacity of a witness by the magistrate judge on the basis of the petition by the defense in case of availability of the fact satisfactory for the unbiased person for conclusion of the fact of possible possession of information necessary for identification of the criminal case circumstances and if this person refuses to be interrogated.

The Committee approved the bills.

*[Photographs]*

Constitution (<http://www.parliament.ge/en/kanonmdebloba/constitution-of-georgia-68>)

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[*Photograph*]

## Georgia Nominates Deputy Justice

### Minister as ICC Judge Candidate

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Gocha Lortkipanidze    International Criminal Court    Justice Ministry

With 91 votes in favor, the Parliament of Georgia endorsed the nomination of incumbent Deputy Justice Minister Gocha Lortkipanidze as a candidate for the election of judges at the Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) at a **plenary session** on March 20.

**Gocha Lortkipanidze** has held the **position** of Deputy Justice Minister since 2012. Earlier in 2005-2009, he has served as Adviser to the Prime Minister in international law and foreign affairs.

Parliament Speaker Archil Talakvadze welcomed “unanimous support” for Lortkipanidze’s candidacy among the Georgian lawmakers, and expressed hope that the nominee would be confirmed as the ICC judge.

Independent MP Eka Beselia, who also backed Lortkipanidze’s candidacy, stated that it was crucial to have a Georgian nominee elected as the ICC judge. “I hope that Lortkipanidze will successfully

pass all of the remaining procedures... so that Georgia would have a dignified representative... I know him as a good professional,” Beselia stated.

Justice Minister Tea Tsulukiani first unveiled plans to nominate Georgian candidate for the elections of ICC judges while visiting the Hague last December. Tsulukiani noted that a highly qualified Georgian nominee would be selected through the national procedure.

The International Criminal Court is impaneled with a 18-judge cohort appointed for nine-year tenure. As a rule, elections are held between every three years in order to fill six judicial vacancies. Six elected candidates are expected to replace the same number of outgoing judges during the 19th session of the Assembly scheduled on December 7-17, 2020. The ICC will also elect new Prosecutor this year.

