

Rehn, Elisabeth (Finland)

[Original: English]

Statement of qualifications

Statement submitted in accordance with paragraph 6 of the resolution of the Assembly of States Parties relating to the procedure for the nomination and election of members of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for the benefit of victims (ICC-ASP/1/Res.7), adopted on 9 September 2002

Ms. Elisabeth Rehn is of high moral character, impartiality and integrity.

Having served a long career as a Member of the Finnish Parliament from 1979 to 1990, Ms. Elisabeth Rehn was appointed the first female Minister of Defence in the world in 1990. In addition, in 1991, she received the portfolio of Minister of Equality Affairs. According to section 60 of the Finnish Constitution (Act No. 731/1999), members of the Government shall be Finnish citizens known to be honest and competent. The Ministers are responsible before the Parliament for their actions in office. Every Minister participating in the consideration of a matter in a government meeting is responsible for any decision made, unless he or she has expressed an objection that has been entered in the minutes. Throughout her public office, Ms. Rehn has enjoyed firm trust and support from Finnish society. Her wide popularity translated into candidacy in the presidential elections in 1994, where she was voted into the final round against Mr. Martti Ahtisaari. She received more than 46 per cent of the votes and thus nearly became the first female president of Finland. In 1995-1996 Ms. Rehn served as a Member of the European Parliament. In 2005 she received the honorary title of Minister in recognition of her long service for and commitment to the Finnish people.

After her long and distinguished career in Finland, Ms. Elisabeth Rehn has dedicated her service to activities at the international level. For the period from 1995 to 1998 she was appointed the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Republic of Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In 1998-1999 she served as United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative of Secretary-General in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2001-2002 she worked as a United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Independent Expert on the impact of war on women. Based on the findings of this work she co-authored a report entitled 'Women, War, Peace' with H.E. Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Until present, Ms. Rehn has received several requests for expertise in issues relating to war crimes and their impact on women, peacebuilding and women's leadership. She has also accepted positions of trust in these fields of expertise.

The prominent career of Ms. Elisabeth Rehn reflects her high moral character, impartiality and integrity in concrete terms.

Ms. Elisabeth Rehn has competence and experience in the assistance to victims of serious crimes.

Ms. Rehn was elected to the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court in 2009. Since 2010 she has served as the Chairperson for the Board of Directors. In her capacity as the Chairperson she has been very actively involved in the fundraising for the Trust Fund. During her term the group of countries contributing financially to the Trust Fund has continued to expand.

Ms. Elisabeth Rehn is a recognized international expert on issues relating to most serious crimes, having herself witnessed and reported on such crimes and their impact on victims in the Western Balkans and Africa. She has been first-hand in the field and has deep understanding of the situation of the victims of violence. She has also gained valuable insight into the legal challenges facing the victims of most serious crimes through her experiences in giving testimony at the International

Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. In recent years, Ms. Rehn has been most active within the framework of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, addressing the role women have in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. Time and again she has stressed the importance of justice and of not accepting impunity. She has also advocated for the need to recognize the special circumstances of women as victims and survivors.

Ms. Elisabeth Rehn is familiar with issues relating to reparations and the challenges in directing such reparations to the most vulnerable. She has addressed this issue in her reports together with recommendations, as well as in her public lectures and speeches. Furthermore, Ms. Rehn is a strong advocate for the empowerment of women. Ms. Rehn's dedication to addressing the needs of the victims of serious crimes and to improving their position is a clear guiding light in her international career.

Ms. Elisabeth Rehn is available to carry out her functions on a regular basis.

Ms. Elisabeth Rehn has dedicated most of her public life to the cause of those most vulnerable. In numerous high-level functions she has consistently raised awareness of issues such as human rights abuses, the situation of war crimes victims and the empowerment of women, and brought them to the forefront of attention of the international community. A dynamic and widely recognized expert, she continues to be actively involved in these issues.

Ms. Elisabeth Rehn is a sought-after lecturer and keynote speaker in all regions of the world. She also regularly participates in various expert meetings at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. As Ms. Rehn has retired from permanent functions, she will have the necessary flexibility to accommodate time and efforts for the Trust Fund for the benefit of victims on a regular basis. Ms. Rehn is truly motivated to devote her service for the cause that she finds extremely important.

Ms. Elisabeth Rehn has experience in fundraising.

Ms. Elisabeth Rehn is an economist by education. She has held various positions of trust in non-governmental organizations, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNIFEM, the Finnish Red Cross, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and most recently the Trust Fund for Victims of the ICC. In this context fundraising has played a relevant part. During her long career Ms. Rehn has developed an excellent network of high-level international contacts in governments, international organizations and civil society. She is widely acknowledged as a powerful speaker with excellent social skills.
