

## **Parmas, Andres (Estonia)**

[original: English]

### **Statement of qualifications**

This statement is submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of the resolution of the Assembly of States Parties on the Procedure for the nomination and election of members of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims (ICC-ASP/1/Res.7).

Mr Andres Parmas fully meets the criteria for nomination set out in paragraph 1 of the above resolution: he is impartial, of high moral character and integrity and has proven competence in the assistance to victims of serious crimes.

Mr Parmas has extensive professional experience in assisting victims of serious crimes both in terms of policy and practice.

During his first months as a member of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims, Mr Parmas has been actively contributing to the work of the Board and feels that his role as the Board member with solid legal background is important for the successful fulfilment of its mandate. Mr Parmas currently functions as the focal point of the Board in the Ntaganda case, where the submission of the implementation plan for the reparations is due in September 2021. He is advocating for the rise of professionalism in the work of the Board, so that it could better meet the expectations that the States Parties to the Rome Statute have put in the Trust Fund for Victims. Mr Parmas offers his service to the Trust Fund in forming a reasoned position in regard of the recommendations of the IER report on the Trust Fund for Victims.

As the Prosecutor General of Estonia, one of his main tasks is to deal with issues concerning the problems of victims of crimes. He is directing the creation of policies in regard of participation of victims in criminal proceedings, their access to relief services, assistance available to the victims etc. To promote the interests of victims Mr Parmas concluded an Agreement with Estonian Bar Association on behalf of the Prosecutor's Office in the fall of 2020 for engaging victims of crimes in the criminal investigation phase. A state prosecutor specialised in juveniles and the treatment of victims was appointed in the Prosecutor's Office. He is also insisting interagency efforts for more meaningful work in advancing the rights of victims. In order to be aware of the level of Prosecutor's Office's services and of any possible shortcomings the satisfaction of victims with the services and assistance available to them during criminal proceedings is constantly gathered and assessed. Mr Parmas also calls for active outreach to victims. He is working to find innovative and efficient methods to take better notice of the needs of victims of crimes. For this reason, e.g. the methods of restorative justice are being introduced in the work of the Prosecutor's Office under his supervision. Mr Parmas is a member to Estonian council of crime prevention, which has in recent years put the assistance of victims of crimes at the centre of its activities.

While being appointed as the judge in roster for the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, Mr Parmas actively participated in the setting out of the regulatory framework and standards for victim participation at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers proceedings. In 2013-2014, Mr Parmas worked as an EULEX legal officer in the courts of Kosovo, where among other tasks he had to work with representatives of the victims of grave violations of international humanitarian law and of crimes against humanity in the ongoing criminal proceedings.

In addition to the above Mr Parmas' work as a lecturer of criminal law at University of Tartu also merits to be highlighted, as he has dealt in depth with the issues concerning the interests of victims when teaching courses of criminal policy and international criminal law. As a speaker in numerous seminars and conferences Mr Parmas has substantially contributed to raising awareness in international humanitarian law amongst Estonian judiciary and military. He was also a member of the Estonian delegation at the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

His track-record also include participation in the reforming of norms against human trafficking in Estonian Penal Code in 2012.

The Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims consists of only five members, but its tasks are manifold: to guide the Trust Fund's activities and allocation of resources and to coordinate and oversee assistance projects. The Board reports on its activities to the Assembly of States Parties. It would also be desirable that the members of the Board could bear representative functions and help in the fundraising for the Trust Fund for Victims. This is why the composition of the Board should at least try to embrace different qualifications. Mr Parmas is eligible candidate for the Board of the Trust Fund because of his expertise in criminal law and international criminal law, but also because of his managerial skills obtained as the Prosecutor General of Estonia and extensive experience from the work in different international settings.

There exist no affiliations or engagements that could cause any prejudice to Mr Parmas' impartiality or integrity as a member of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims. *Inter alia* at present Mr Parmas has no affiliations with any international judicial organisations. Mr Parmas had to resign from the roster of judges at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers because of his appointment as Prosecutor General of Estonia. However, working as the Prosecutor General is no formal or substantial impediment to act as a member of Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims.

Based on the above considerations the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute can be confident in investing Mr. Andres Parmas' experience and knowledge into the position of a member of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims.

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