

Statement of qualifications

Statement of the Ecuadorian Government regarding the candidacy of Dr. María del Carmen González Cabal to occupy one of the vacancies of judge of the International Criminal Court (list B), according to resolution ICC-ASP/3/Res.6, of 10 September 2004.

The Ecuadorian candidate, Dr. María del Carmen González Cabal, is a lawyer and diplomat of great moral, intellectual and academic prestige. Dr. González Cabal has a degree in social and political sciences. In 1981, she graduated as Doctor in Jurisprudence and Lawyer of the Tribunals of the Republic of Ecuador, and since then she has been a member of the Quito Bar Association. Dr. González Cabal has been a member of the Ecuadorian Foreign Service for 30 years.

During her college years, Dr. González Cabal worked pro bono in the Catholic University of Ecuador's free legal counselling services, providing assistance to the farming community of Guamote, Province of Chimborazo, Ecuador. She was also a member of gender equality defence groups. She has, thenceforth, maintained close relations with academic circles and organisations linked to social issues in Ecuador and in some of the cities where she has represented her country in diplomatic missions, including Vienna, Brasilia, San Salvador, Buenos Aires, Managua and The Hague.

In the biennium 1981 - 1982, Dr. González Cabal took the Introductory Course to the Diplomatic Career at *Instituto Rio Branco*, the diplomatic academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil. In 1988, she took a course on International Public Law at the Institute of International Relations Research in Florence, Italy. In 1990, she attended courses on human rights, offered by the United Nations Office in Geneva, as well as a course on human rights, offered by the University of Strasbourg, France. In 1997, Dr. González Cabal obtained a M.A. degree in International Relations from the University of Brasilia (UnB), with a thesis dealing with the guarantees offered by international public law and the peaceful settlement of conflicts. In 2007, Dr. Gonzalez Cabal took a summer course on International Criminal Law, organized by Leiden University and the Grotius Centre.

Ecuador presents the candidacy of Dr. González Cabal to the post of magistrate in the International Criminal Court for list B, given her broad experience in international legal issues. Between 1979 and 1980, she was Alternate Director of the Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry's Legal Assistance Office. In 1985, she was the representative of Ecuador before the United Nations Office of Social Affairs in Vienna, where she dealt with human rights, people with disabilities, gender equality, refugees, family issues and others. In 1988, Dr. González Cabal was a member of the Ecuadorian delegation to the First World Conference on Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and represented Ecuador in the Commission for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1990.

Between 1990 and 1992, Dr. González Cabal served as Director of the Department of Social Affairs of the Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry, where she had contact with different national and international organisations regarding human rights, humanitarian affairs, narcotics, family rights, and gender issues.

In 2001, Dr. González Cabal was General Coordinator for the 10th Conference of Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. This Conference addressed the issue of adolescents of the Americas and was aimed at evaluating the decade-long consultancy working mechanisms. Experiences were exchanged in order to find solutions to social and humanitarian problems affecting children, women and the elderly in the Americas. A Plan of Action was adopted in favour of adolescents.

In 2002, Dr. González Cabal worked as Assistant at the National Institute for Children and Family of Ecuador (INNFA), and implemented the Action Plan established by the aforementioned Conference. The Action Plan addressed education, health, job training, social behaviour and citizen participation. Domestic violence and gender equality issues were also on the agenda of this Office.

Between 2001 and 2002, the Ecuadorian candidate sponsored and founded a project promoted by the Organisation of American States: “School Laboratories: Young Businessmen” in Ecuador. This project was subsequently launched in Nicaragua, with the support of the Nicaraguan-American Chamber of Commerce.

During the period of 2003 - 2005, Dr. González Cabal served as Ecuadorian Ambassador in Nicaragua, and emphasized issues related to trafficking in persons, which required her personal involvement and close contacts with the Nicaraguan penitentiary system and Ecuadorian detainees. Her work with the National Assembly and the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua facilitated the solution of legal problems which affected irregular migrants from Ecuador as well as other countries.

Taking into account the importance of the balance between peace and justice enshrined in the Treaty of Rome, it is worth noting that the Ecuadorian candidate has broad experience in peace talks processes. Indeed, in 1995, Dr. González Cabal was a member of the Ecuadorian delegation for Peace Talks between Ecuador and Peru, in Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia, which resulted in the Itamaraty Declaration of Peace of 17 February 1995. This Declaration signified the beginning of the *détente* process between both countries.

That same year, Dr. González Cabal participated in the Ecuadorian delegation for the negotiation of Procedures for the Withdrawal of Troops and the creation of the Mission of Military Observers Ecuador-Peru. She also joined the working groups which supported the peace commissions and high-level talks, which led the Presidents of Ecuador and Peru to sign a definite Peace Treaty in 1998 and to adopt an important agenda for common bi-national development.

Fluent in Spanish, English, Portuguese and Italian, Dr. González Cabal also has a basic command of German, and represented her country during the fourth and fifth sessions of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, both held in The Hague, in 2005 and 2006, respectively.

Dr. González Cabal has represented Ecuador before the Governments of Austria, Brazil and El Salvador, and has been Ambassador in Argentina, Nicaragua and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. She also was the Permanent Representative of Ecuador before the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Common Fund for Commodities.

Dr. González Cabal acted as international observer during the May 2004 general elections of Panama, and she also was Vice-President for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries of the Common Fund for Commodities’ Board of Governors.

Dr. González Cabal has written numerous publications and given lectures in several universities and institutions related to international public law issues. She is married and has two children.

This candidacy will contribute to an equal geographic distribution among the magistrates of the Court, as provided in paragraph 8 (a), article 36, of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Ecuador signed the Statute of Rome in 1998 - without reservations - and ratified it on 5 February 2002. Ecuador ratified the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court in 2006.

Ecuador intends to voice the great significance it bestows on human rights and humanitarian affairs issues, as well as its wish to – through the International Criminal Court – promote the end of impunity to the crimes established in the Rome Statute.
