

Note verbale

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guyana to the United Nations 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/7/S/19, dated 15 April 2008, has the honour to inform that the Government of Guyana has decided to nominate Judge Mohamed Shahabuddeen, S.C., for election as a judge of the International Criminal Court, at elections to be held during the resumed seventh session of the Assembly in New York from 19 to 23 January 2009.

The nomination of Judge Mohamed Shahabuddeen is submitted as a list B candidate in full accordance with article 36, paragraph 5, of the Rome Statute.

Judge Mohamed Shahabuddeen is a person of high moral character, impartiality and integrity, and possesses vast experience as a judge internationally. As a qualified lawyer from a common law legal system, Judge Shahabuddeen has several decades of standing at the bar of Guyana and served both as Attorney General and acting Foreign Minister of Guyana. Having served as a judge of the International Court of Justice (1988 - 1997), judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (from 1997 to the present, and twice as Vice-President of that Tribunal), judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in its Appeals Chamber (from 1997 to the present), Judge Shahabuddeen has acquired competence in relevant areas of international law pertinent to the judicial work of the Court, such as international humanitarian law, human rights law and law pertaining to violence against women and children. This international jurist is also an ardent advocate of the rule of law and respect for human rights. Attached is the curriculum vitae of Judge Shahabuddeen.

Judge Mohamed Shahabuddeen meets both of the requirements specified in article 36, paragraph 3 (b) (i) and paragraph 3 (b) (ii), of the Statute, as well as in article 36, paragraph 4 (a) (ii), of the Statute. The National Group of the Republic of Guyana in the Permanent Court of Arbitration has informed the Government of Guyana of its choice of Judge Shahabuddeen as the candidate for election as judge of the International Criminal Court. This nomination has also been endorsed by the Caribbean Community.

The Government of Guyana is convinced that Judge Shahabuddeen is suitably qualified and would make a valuable contribution to the Court.