

## Statement of qualifications

*Statement submitted in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4 (a), of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and paragraph 6 of the resolution of the Assembly of States Parties on the procedure for the nomination and election of judges of the Court (ICC-ASP/3/Res.6).*

(a) Judge Fumiko Saiga, the Japanese candidate for Judge of the International Criminal Court, is a person of high moral character, impartiality and integrity, who possesses the qualifications required in Japan for appointment to the highest judicial offices.

Judge Saiga was one of Japan's prominent diplomats with a significant expertise in Japan's relations with the United Nations and has been intensively engaged in the process of international rule-making especially in the area of social cooperation through the United Nations. She also had the opportunity to work in Japanese local government, in Saitama Prefecture, as its Vice-Governor and made a great contribution to successfully leading the prefecture to one of the best local governments in terms of its policy on gender equality. Throughout her diplomatic career, she was successively appointed to important posts, such as Consul-General in Seattle (United States of America), Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and then Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Norway as well as the Republic of Iceland. Her exceptional competence and ability were proven through these diplomatic duties she discharged. Last but not least, she recently took up her current position as Judge of the International Criminal Court, having received the greatest number of votes (82 votes out of 105 States Parties) at the elections to fill judicial vacancies in November 2007. She is currently assigned to the Pre-Trial Division. Taking into account these achievements, the nomination of Judge Saiga as the Japanese candidate for Judge of the Court was proposed at a Cabinet meeting and decided after careful consideration following the procedure stipulated in article 36, paragraph 4 (a) (i), of the Rome Statute.

(b) Judge Saiga is nominated as the Japanese candidate for Judge of the Court for inclusion in list B for the purposes of article 36, paragraph 5, of the Rome Statute.

Judge Saiga has been intensively involved in human rights issues, in particular, gender issues, and developed her prominent expertise in this field. She actively took part in the process of ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and in deliberations on the Optional Protocol to the Convention. Through her work in this process, she established her competence in relevant areas of international law such as the law of human rights. Based on this achievement, Judge Saiga became a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) of the United Nations in 2001. Furthermore, recognized as one of the most prominent and experienced experts on human rights issues in Japan, she was appointed Japanese Ambassador in charge of human rights. She strived thereafter to resolve human rights issues including the North Korea abduction issue in the international community through attending conferences organized by the United Nations and other organizations as well as government-level dialogues on human rights-related issues. It is expected that Judge Saiga's expertise in the field will be further strengthened through the experience and duties of her current position.

(c) The information relating to article 36, paragraph 8 (a) of the Rome Statute is as follows:

- (i) Judge Saiga is qualified for appointment to the highest judicial offices in Japan.
- (ii) Judge Saiga is a national of Japan, a member of the Asian region.
- (iii) Judge Saiga is female.

(d) Judge Saiga has legal expertise on gender issues including, but not limited to, violence against women through her career as a member of the CEDAW, between 2001 and 2007. The contribution made by Judge Saiga to activities of the CEDAW is well recognized with great satisfaction by the international community and therefore she was re-elected as a member of the CEDAW twice, in 2002 and 2006.

(e) Judge Saiga is a national of Japan and does not possess the nationality of any other State.

As Judge Saiga will have served as a Judge of the Court for less than three years by the end of her current term in March 2009, she is eligible for re-election for a full term in 2009, in accordance with article 37, paragraph 2, of the Rome Statute.