

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 resolution ICC-ASP/3/Res.6 relating to the procedure for the nomination and election of judges of the International Criminal Court.

- (a) Ambassador Fumiko Saiga, the Japanese candidate for Judge of the 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.

Ambassador Saiga is one of Japan's prominent diplomats with 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, 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. As for 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. Taking into account these achievements of Ambassador Saiga, her nomination as 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) Ambassador Saiga is nominated as Japanese candidate for Judge of the Court for inclusion in list B for the purposes of article 36, paragraph 5 of the Rome Statute.

Ambassador 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, Ambassador Saiga became a Member of the CEDAW in 2001. Furthermore, recognized as one of the most prominent and experienced experts on human rights issue in Japan, she was appointed as Japanese Ambassador in charge of human rights. She has been striving 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.

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

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

- (d) Ambassador Saiga has legal expertise on gender issues including, but not limited to, violence against women through her career as a Member of the CEDAW since 2001. The contribution made by Ambassador Saiga to activities of the CEDAW has been 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) Ambassador Saiga is a national of Japan and does not possess the nationality of any other State.

Letter from the Japanese national group in the Permanent Court of Arbitration

(Translation from Japanese)

The Japanese national group in the Permanent Court of Arbitration has the honour to inform H.E. Taro ASO, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, that the group has decided to nominate Ms. Fumiko SAIGA, Ambassador of Japan in charge of Human Rights and concurrently Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) of the United Nations, as a candidate for Judge of the International Criminal Court in the election that will be held to fill judicial vacancies at the sixth session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 2007.

July 2007

The Japanese national group in the Permanent Court of Arbitration

/s/ Judge Toshijiro NAKAJIMA

/s/ Judge Soji YAMAMOTO

/s/ Judge Nisuke ANDO

/s/ Judge Hisashi OWADA

H.E. Taro ASO
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Japan