

Tavárez Mirabal, Minerva Josefina (Dominican Republic)

[original: Spanish]

Statement of qualifications

The Dominican Republic nominates Mrs. Minou Tavárez Mirabal as its candidate for re-election to the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims (the “Trust Fund”), to which she was elected in 2020 to fill the vacancy that arose after the irreparable loss of Dr. Felipe Michelini (Uruguay) on 19 April of that year. As was demonstrated in the context of her election, Mrs. Tavárez fulfills the requirements of high moral character, impartiality and integrity required for the object and purpose of the Trust Fund within the framework of the Rome Statute, as stipulated in the criteria reflected in paragraph 1 of Resolution ICC-ASP/1/Res.7: “[t]he members of the Board shall be of high moral character, impartiality and integrity and shall have competence in the assistance to victims of serious crimes”.

A further mandate of Mrs. Minou Tavárez Mirabal on the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund will ensure continuity for the endeavors she has undertaken as of her election in 2020 towards the strengthening of the Trust Fund. As was the case in the process that led to her election, the elements of her profile that qualify her for this position are reflected below.

Minerva Josefina Tavárez Mirabal, better known as Minou, is a Dominican philologist and politician, nationally and internationally recognized for her commitment to democracy, justice, human rights, equality and the fight against discrimination. She was born in 1956 during Rafael Trujillo’s dictatorship, one of the cruelest in the history of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mrs. Tavárez’s mother, Minerva Mirabal, together with her aunts Patria and María Teresa Mirabal, all of them activists for democracy, liberty and human rights, were murdered on 25 November 1960. The global condemnation of these atrocities is reflected in the designation by the United Nations General Assembly of that date as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (Resolution 54/134 of 1999).

The crimes against humanity committed by the dictatorship, with their thousands of victims, among them her mother and aunts as well as her father (who was also murdered in 1963), have defined the public services rendered by Minou Tavárez Mirabal to the Dominican Nation and the Latin American region. From the days of her youth, her work has been characterized by her defense of human rights and by her independent criteria, her capacity and her impartiality. She has raised her voice both nationally and internationally in favor of justice, the defense of the rights of all human beings, especially women, girls, boys and adolescents, and all those groups that have traditionally been marginalized.

The nomination of Minou Tavárez Mirabal has the full support of all parties in the National Congress. The candidate is nominated on the basis of her leadership, communication skills and commitment to inclusion and diversity, as well as her capacity for fundraising, generating partnerships, coordinating team work and negotiating with different actors and interests, which she has proven during her four years of service as Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic and three periods as Member of Parliament (2002-2006, 2006-2010 and 2010-2016), as well as during the course of her long-standing political activism.

Also noteworthy are Minou Tavárez Mirabal’s efforts over the course of 14 years in favor of the Rome Statute which established the ICC and the Trust Fund, in her capacity as national MP and as member, and later President, of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), an international network of more than 1,400 legislators who promote human rights and the rule of law, non-discrimination, democracy and gender equality in 143 countries throughout the world.

At the national level, Mrs. Minou Tavárez Mirabal’s legislative initiatives have contributed decisively to the Dominican Republic’s ratification of the Rome Statute in 2005 and of the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the ICC in 2008, and also to the current advanced state of implementation of the Statute, as

concerns both substantive law, which has been reflected in our Criminal Code since 2014, and, since 2018, the obligation to cooperate with the ICC.

Within PGA, she was involved in and worked actively for the ratification of the Rome Statute in 76 countries, and subsequently for the promotion of the Statute's universality, comprehensiveness and effectiveness, and for the approval of complementary implementation legislation in numerous Parliaments throughout the world

At the international level, as a politician and a human-rights activist, her work has also focused on the defense of fundamental values for humanity, which are closely linked to the aspirations of the victims of Rome Statute crimes; among these are the prohibition of the use of weapons, the right of women to a life without violence, the elimination of discrimination based on gender or on any other factor, the protection against all forms of violence and the abolition of the death penalty.

This lengthy record vouches for Minou Tavárez Mirabal's aptitude as a candidate to serve in the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund; she will doubtless contribute to the Fund's effectiveness and to its impact on the application of the criteria of reparation, assistance and fundraising for victims, as well as to full compliance with the Rome Statute's aspirations for justice and to attaining the end of the culture of impunity, in benefit of the victims of the most heinous crimes committed against humanity.