

**Statement of qualifications**

1. Referring to note verbale Ref: ICC-ASP/14/SP/06 addressed to the States Parties by the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties, the Government of the Republic of Burundi has decided to nominate Ambassador Thomas Barankitse for the election of the members of the Advisory Committee on Nominations of Judges of the International Criminal Court.

2. Ambassador Thomas Barankitse is a lawyer with significant experience, as his curriculum vitae accompanying this statement shows.

3. He is an eminent legal practitioner who has served as a judge and in turn as Deputy Public Prosecutor, Public Prosecutor, Senior Trial Lawyer at the Appeals Court, Chief Police Commissioner and as Burundi's Head of Interpol. This demonstrates that he is familiar with both the intellectual and moral qualities required of a judge candidate to perform his role to the best of his ability.

4. It should also be pointed out that the nominated candidate held the post of Director-General of the Ministry of Justice in Burundi. He played a key role in supervising the recruitment of judges at a national level in this capacity.

5. It should also be mentioned that as far as the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court are concerned, Ambassador Thomas Barankitse was very active in his role as focal point of the Permanent Representation of Burundi to the ICC from May 2008 to May 2013. He also had the opportunity to take part in several sessions of the Assembly of States Parties in The Hague.

6. In terms of international law, it should be noted that in addition to his role as Legal Attaché which enabled him to consolidate his experience, the candidate supplemented his university training with a course on private international law at The Hague Academy of International Law.

7. Finally, it should be mentioned that Ambassador Thomas Barankitse has acquired a great capacity for analysis and is highly skilled in assessing and judging situations as a result of the senior posts he has held.

8. The Government of the Republic of Burundi wishes to provide reassurance that the candidate demonstrates the highest moral standards.

9. The Government of the Republic of Burundi is firmly convinced that with all these assets the nominated candidate matches the profile sought and that he would make a valuable contribution if he were to be selected.