

Song, Sang-Hyun (Republic of Korea)

[Original: English]

Statement of qualifications

Statement submitted in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4(c,) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and resolution ICC-ASP/10/Res.5, adopted by the Assembly of States Parties, relating to the procedure for the election of the members of the Advisory Committee on nominations of judges of the International Criminal Court

Judge Song Sang-Hyun, former President and judge of the International Criminal Court, meets the requirements set out in the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee. He is a person of high moral character, impartiality, and integrity.

Judge Song has established competence and experience in criminal and international law as specified in his curriculum vitae. He has extensive practical and academic experience in the areas of criminal procedure, the law of evidence, court management, and international law.

Judge Song was admitted to the Korean Bar in 1964, started his legal career as a judge-advocate in the Korean army and later worked as a foreign attorney in a New York law firm. He served as a member of the Advisory Committees to the Korean Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice for 25 years, from 1979 to 2003. As such, he took part in initiatives to reform the national litigation system, commercial arbitration system, criminal justice system, court management, and the prison system. Judge Song was also Chair of the Policy Advisory Committee for National Human Rights Commission from 2015 to 2019.

Judge Song has well-established expertise in the ICC system and practice. He served as a judge of the International Criminal Court from 2003 to 2015. He was one of the first judges of the Court in 2003 and was assigned to the Appeals Division. He was re-elected to the Court in 2006 for a term of nine years. In 2009, he was elected as President of the Court and re-elected in 2012 for another three-year term.

Judge Song has studied both the civil law and common law systems, in Korea, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany. He taught as a professor of law at Seoul National University Law School from 1972 to 2007, and lectured as a visiting professor at law schools in several countries, notably Melbourne Law School, Harvard Law School, and New York University School of Law. He is also the author of a number of publications on relevant legal issues. Judge Song has continued his commitment to international humanitarian law and human rights as a co-founder of the Legal Aid Centre for Women and of the Childhood Leukemia Foundation in Seoul, as well as serving as the President of UNICEF Korea.

Judge Song has received awards for his contributions both in Korea and abroad, including the highest decoration of the Korean Government, Mugunghwa (the Order of Civil Merit) (2011), the Rule of Law Award from the International Bar Association (2012), and the Ridder Grootkruis (Knight's Grand Cross) award from the Government of the Netherlands (2015).