

## **Statement of qualifications**

*Detailed statement showing that the candidate of Costa Rica, Jorge Antonio Urbina Ortega, satisfies the requirements laid down in article 36 of the Rome Statute, and in the resolution of the General Assembly of States Parties on the procedure for the nomination and election of judges of the International Criminal Court.*

The *raison d'être* of the International Criminal Court is the victims, and the shared desire of the international community to put an end to impunity. The Rome Statute thus requires that judicial qualifications be complemented by competence and experience in international law, international humanitarian law and human rights law. In order to have such competence and experience available to it, the Court has provided for a List B of candidates, and the Government of Costa Rica is submitting a suitably qualified candidate for the post of judge of the International Criminal Court on List B.

The Government of Costa Rica is submitting the candidacy of Jorge Urbina Ortega for the post of judge at the elections to be held during the tenth session of the Assembly of States Parties in December 2011. The candidate, who is of Costa Rican nationality, is a person of high moral character and recognized integrity and impartiality, and possesses the qualifications required by the law of Costa Rica for appointment to the highest judicial offices. His candidacy was proposed by the national group of members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and is submitted on the basis of article 140, paragraph 12, of the Political Constitution of the Republic and in accordance with the procedure provided in article 4 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

Mr. Urbina Ortega is fully qualified to perform the duties of judge of the International Criminal Court, and satisfies the requirements laid down in article 36(3)(b)(ii) of the Rome Statute. The candidate is particularly well qualified in the areas of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and in the course of his career has acquired substantial experience in legal activities of direct relevance to the judicial work of the Court.

As well as academic activities in the fields of social science and international public law, Mr. Urbina Ortega has occupied senior diplomatic posts, including representing Costa Rica at the Security Council, and took part, as representative of Costa Rica, in the provision of international support to the negotiating and peacemaking process to put an end to the armed conflicts in Central and South America. In the course of his professional career, the candidate has gained extensive experience in the practice of international humanitarian law and of human rights law. His links with the Court and his work in connection with situations of armed conflict and contact with vulnerable populations, as well as his diplomatic duties, have enabled him to move beyond theoretical analysis, and to focus on the legal and factual evaluation of specific cases with a view to their possible referral to the Court.

Costa Rica's candidate, Mr. Urbina Ortega, whose curriculum vitae is appended hereto, is a member of the legal profession with mother-tongue Spanish and fluency in English and French and whose professional training and experience have been acquired within the Romanist legal system.

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