

Defensor-Santiago, Miriam

[Original: English]

Note verbale

The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and has the honour to inform the Secretariat that the Government of the Philippines has decided to nominate Dr. Miriam Defensor-Santiago as a candidate to the post of judge of the International Criminal Court at elections to be held during the tenth session of the Assembly of States Parties on 12 to 21 December 2011 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Dr. Santiago, currently a serving member of the Philippine Senate, has been nominated for election in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4 (a) (ii), of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. She also fulfils the requirements of paragraph 3 (a) of the same article, being a person of high moral character, impartiality, and integrity who possesses the qualifications required by Philippine law for appointment to the highest judicial office.

While Dr. Santiago is well qualified for either category specified in article 36, paragraph 5, of the Rome Statute, the Philippines is nominating her for inclusion in List B for candidates with established competence in relevant areas of international law such as international humanitarian law and law of human rights, and extensive experience in a professional legal capacity which is of relevance to the judicial work of the Court.

Dr. Santiago has had a distinguished career in all three branches of government as a judge, cabinet member, and legislator. She served as Presiding Judge of a Regional Trial Court, Commissioner of Immigration, Secretary (Minister) of Agrarian Reform and has been elected three times to the Philippine Senate, where she has served as Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Relations. Dr. Santiago is also a highly regarded member of the academe as a professor in the fields of constitutional law and international law. She has written extensively on both areas of importance to the Court, namely criminal procedure and international law, and is the author of several books and papers published in various legal publications.

Attached to this note are the letter from the Philippine National Group of the Permanent Court of Arbitration nominating Dr. Santiago as candidate to the post of judge of the International Criminal Court, the statement made in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4 (a), of the Rome Statute, and the curriculum vitae of Dr. Santiago.