

Statement of qualifications

This statement is submitted in accordance with the provisions of article 36, paragraph 4(a) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and paragraph 6 of resolution ICC-ASP/3/Res.6.

Justice Geoffrey A. Henderson is the candidate of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for election as a Judge of the International Criminal Court.

The candidate satisfies the provisions of article 36, paragraph 3(a) of the Rome Statute as an individual of high moral character, impartiality and integrity and possesses the qualifications for appointment to the highest judicial offices in Trinidad and Tobago.

Justice Henderson meets fully the requirements of article 36, paragraph 3(b) of the Rome Statute which provides that: “every candidate shall have established competence in criminal law and procedure, and the necessary relevant experience, whether as judge, prosecutor, advocate or in other similar capacity, in criminal proceedings.”

The candidate therefore fulfills the requirements relevant to election as a judge under List A pursuant to article 36, paragraph 5 of the Rome Statute. The candidate’s experience and qualifications are based on his considerable experience, training and demonstrated competence in criminal law and criminal procedure for over twenty-three (23) years.

He served as a Prosecutor at different levels in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions of Trinidad and Tobago, eventually rising to the position of Director of Public Prosecutions.

Additionally, in a landmark case in the criminal jurisprudence of Trinidad and Tobago, as Director of Public Prosecutions, he successfully argued for the introduction of victim impact statements at the sentencing stage in a criminal trial. It should be noted that this procedure is now routinely done in criminal cases in the jurisdiction.

In his present post as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago, Justice Henderson has adjudicated over many complex criminal cases involving single and multiple accused persons of: murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape, incest, sexual offences, dangerous drugs, firearm and ammunition offences and other crimes.

As a Prosecutor, the candidate was involved in national and regional training workshops of Prosecutors by participating either as a presenter or participant.

Justice Henderson, as a board member of the Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago, continues to make a contribution to judicial education in Trinidad and Tobago.

The candidate has also represented Trinidad and Tobago at several international conferences on crime prevention and criminal justice.

Both in his capacity as a former Prosecutor as well as in his current portfolio as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago, Justice Henderson would have presided over or prosecuted cases involving violence against women and children.

The candidate is fluent in one of the working languages of the Court.
