

Statement of qualification

Statement submitted in accordance with article 36(4) (a), of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and paragraph 6 of resolution ICC-ASP/3/Res.6 relating to the procedure for the nomination and election of judges of the International Criminal Court.

The Republic of Croatia nominates Professor Zlata Đurđević as candidate for judge of the International Criminal Court. Professor Đurđević fully meets the requirements for election as judge of the International Criminal Court, as established in article 36(3), of the Rome Statute as follows:

a) Professor Đurđević is an eminent person of high moral character, impartiality and integrity. Her high reputation has been recognized in professional and public life in the Republic of Croatia and abroad.

b) Professor Đurđević possesses the qualifications required for appointment to the highest judicial offices at the national level as she is a full professor of law, obtained her LLM in Criminal Law and PhD from the University of Zagreb and holds an MPhil Degree in Criminology from the University of Cambridge. She passed the judicial state exam in 1994, and practised law at Croatian courts for two years. She has been a member of public bodies of the Republic of Croatia, conducting asylum proceedings, proceedings to determine the disciplinary responsibility of prosecutors and the conflict of interests of public officials. She has more than 20 years of service in the judiciary and at university.

c) Professor Đurđević fulfils the professional criteria from article 36(3) (b), of the Rome Statute. She is a distinguished professor of criminal procedure, human rights and European criminal law at the University of Zagreb where she has been teaching since 1995. She is recognized as a leading scholar in the fields of human rights law, international criminal law, and criminal and procedural law, as her academic and professional career clearly demonstrates. She is not only a top national expert on human rights and criminal justice issues, but also well-known in professional and scientific circles in the region, in Europe, and more widely. She has published extensively in the fields of human rights, European and international criminal law, and criminal procedural law and criminal law.

Professor Đurđević is a prominent member of several international and national scientific and legal associations. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Organization of Penal Law (AIDP) which is the oldest association of specialists in penal law and she participates actively in the scientific and organizational activities of the Association. She is president of the Croatian Association of European Criminal Law and vice-president of the Croatian Association of Criminal Sciences and Practice. She is the recipient of several international awards, among which the Chevening Scholarship, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Austrian Exchange Service (OAD), and a Fulbright Visiting Scholarship.

In recognition of her specialization in international criminal law, the President of Croatia has appointed her as his personal envoy to work on the Statute of the Regional Commission for Establishing the Facts about War Crimes and Other Gross Violations of Human Rights Committed on the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia (RECOM).

Professor Đurđević has had occasion to serve many times in a consultancy capacity to governmental, judicial, public and non-governmental organizations in fields ranging from human rights to compliance with international and European law. Her versatile academic, research and pedagogic work in Croatia show her initiative, organizational skills, leadership and competences. Her bibliography is impressive and her work is always well-researched, incisive, and appropriately critical.

d) Professor Đurđević is fluent in English and has a very good passive and an intermediate active knowledge of French and German.

e) She is being nominated for list B. The information related to subparagraphs (i) to (iii) of paragraph 8(a) of article 36 of the Statute is as follows:

- i) The Republic of Croatia belongs to the civil law system. However, Professor Đurđević has also been educated in and has extensive knowledge of the common law system.
- ii) The Republic of Croatia is a member of the Eastern European Group of States.
- iii) Professor Đurđević is female.

f) Professor Đurđević has extensive legal expertise in and experience of specific issues relevant to the work of the Court, including violence against women, protection of victims and witnesses, victims' procedural rights and rights to compensation, defence rights, and fair trial rights.

g) Professor Đurđević is a national of the Republic of Croatia and does not possess the nationality of any other state.

For the aforementioned reasons, the Republic of Croatia fully recommends Prof. Đurđević's nomination, as it is confident that her qualities will add to the effective functioning of the International Criminal Court which rests on the quality of its judges.
