

Akane, Tomoko (Japan)

[Original: English]

Statement of qualifications

Statement prepared in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4 (a), of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, resolution ICC-ASP/3/Res.6, as amended by resolutions ICC-ASP/5/Res.5, ICC-ASP/12/Res.8, annex II and ICC-ASP/14/Res.4, annex II, adopted by the Assembly of States Parties, relating to the procedure for the nomination and election of judges of the International Criminal Court:

(a) (i) Ms. Tomoko Akane is a person of high moral character, impartiality and integrity who possesses the qualifications required in Japan for appointment to the highest judicial offices.

Ms. Akane's nomination as the Japanese candidate for judge of the International Criminal Court was approved at the Cabinet Meeting of the Government of Japan on 22 April 2016, following the procedure stipulated in article 36, paragraph 4 (a) (i), of the Statute.

(ii) Ms. Akane is one of Japan's most prominent experts in criminal justice and has served as a public prosecutor with exceptional competence and ability in criminal law and international criminal law. In her successful career as public prosecutor for over 35 years, she has served in various Public Prosecutors Offices in Japan and other legal and academic institutions, dealing with various kinds of criminal cases through investigation, prosecution, trial and appeal, and engaged in legislative activities including revision of Juvenile Act of Japan, as well as education of prosecutors. She also serves as Ambassador for International Judicial Cooperation in charge of promoting international cooperation in the field of justice.

In addition to her achievements as prosecutor and leading expert in criminal justice, Ms. Akane also has extensive experience and expertise in legal technical assistance gained through her responsibilities at the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), a member institute of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network Institutes (PNI), and at the Research and Training Institute (RTI) of the Ministry of Justice of Japan. Amongst other activities, through training of criminal justice practitioners from various countries on relevant international treaties and conventions, she has contributed to the promotion of ratification and implementation of conventions such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, human rights conventions including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and counter-terrorism conventions.

Ms. Akane has also acquired rich experience in academia as Professor of Criminal Justice Practice at Nagoya University Law School and Chukyo University Law School in Japan, having been intensively involved in education and training of future legal professionals.

(iii) Ms. Akane has an excellent command of English including both the oral and written knowledge of it. She also has a fair knowledge of French.

(b) Ms. Akane is nominated as the Japanese candidate for judge of the International Criminal Court for inclusion in List A for the purposes of article 36, paragraph 5, of the Statute.

As a highly competent public prosecutor, Ms. Akane has dealt with a wide range of criminal cases from economic and financial crimes to corruption, violent crimes and organized crime. In her senior position at the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office of Japan, she provided guidance to numerous investigations of different kinds of crimes conducted by

regional Prosecutors Offices nationwide, thus establishing sufficient competence in criminal law and procedure and acquiring the necessary experience in criminal proceedings.

Ms. Akane has also been involved intensively in training criminal justice practitioners from other countries, and providing legal technical assistance to these countries. As Director of the UNAFEI and as Director-General of the RTI, she led capacity building projects for the criminal justice systems of developing countries, attaching particular importance to protecting the rights of vulnerable groups such as women and children as well as to ending impunity. Representing the RTI, she also worked closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the PNI institutes in the planning and implementation of the UN policies concerning worldwide crime prevention and treatment of offenders.

(c) The information relating to article 36, paragraph 8 (a), of the Statute is as follows:

(i) Ms. Akane is qualified for appointment to the highest judicial offices in Japan, whose legal system mainly consists of continental law but also has some elements of common law;

(ii) Ms. Akane is a national of Japan, a member of the Asia-Pacific region;
and

(iii) Ms. Akane is female.

(d) Ms. Akane has legal expertise on specific issues, including, but not limited to, violence against women and children. In her capacity as Director of the UNAFEI, she was in charge of organizing international training seminars on the treatment of offenders that require special consideration including gender-related issues. On juvenile justice, as Deputy Director of the UNAFEI, she was involved in reforming Kenya's juvenile justice system and provided technical assistance to the Kenyan justice authorities, as a short-term expert posted in the country. She also supervised the UNAFEI's work in revitalizing the system of community-based treatment of offenders including women in the Philippines.

(e) Ms. Akane is a national of Japan and does not possess the nationality of any other State.

(f) Ms. Akane is committed to making herself available to take up full-time service at the commencement of her term.
