

Karanja, Wanjiru (Republic of Kenya)

[original: English]

Statement of qualifications

The Government of Kenya has nominated Judge Wanjiru Karanja, Judge of the Court of Appeal, for the position of judge at the International Criminal Court in the election, which will take place at the twenty-second session of the Assembly of State Parties, scheduled to be held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 4 to 14 December 2023.

Document in support of the nomination pursuant to article 36(3) and resolution ICC-ASP/3/Res.6

1. Fulfilment of the requirements of article 36, paragraph 3 (a), (b) and (c) of the Rome Statute, and article 36, paragraph 4(a), of the Statute

The nominee, Judge Wanjiru Karanja has a wealth of experience, spanning thirty-eight (38) years in Criminal Law and Procedure. She joined the Kenya judiciary in 1985, as a District Magistrate where she handled criminal matters which included offences like aggravated assault, burglary and theft, rape and defilement, manslaughter, robberies and other penal code offences.

She rose up the ladder as years went by and the jurisdiction expanded to include murder and other complicated matters. In 2004, the nominee was promoted to Judge of the High Court where other than handling murder trials in the first instance, the nominee covered all first-appeals in criminal as well as civil matters. Judge Wanjiru Karanja has therefore dealt with cases in line with the provisions of article 36, paragraph 8 (b), of the Rome Statute.

In December 2011, she was competitively elevated to the Court of Appeal, then the highest Court in the land, where she continued handling appeals in criminal and civil matters, both from the subordinate courts and the High Court. Judge Wanjiru Karanja is currently the most senior Judge in the Court of Appeal in the Republic of Kenya.

Judge Wanjiru Karanja is fluent in both written and oral English, as well as Swahili, which are the modes of communication in all schools, from pre-school to university, and the two official languages in Kenya. Swahili is also a working language of the African Union.

Judge Wanjiru Karanja is of impeccable moral character and her integrity and impartiality are beyond reproach. As a demonstration, when in 2003, the Government of Kenya decided to clean up the judiciary, the nominee was one of the three members of the Anti- corruption and integrity committee that was set up to vet the Judges and magistrates, an exercise that saw many Judges and magistrates relinquish their positions. Judge Wanjiru Karanja is well suited to sit as a Judge of the International Criminal Court.

2. Indicating whether the candidate is being nominated for inclusion in list A or list B for the purposes of article 36, paragraph 5, of the Statute

With extensive experience as a judge in criminal cases, Judge Wanjiru Karanja is being nominated for list A, which includes candidates with established competence in criminal law and procedure, as well as the necessary experience in criminal law.

3. Information relating to article 36, paragraph 8 (a) (i) to (iii), of the Statute

Judge Wanjiru Karanja (i) represents the common law system, (ii) is from Kenya, a country belonging to the African Group, and (iii) is a female candidate.

Kenya is a strong proponent of the need for equitable geographical representation and to comply with fair gender representation in the recruitment of all Court staff.

4. Indicating whether the candidate has any expertise under article 36, paragraph 8(b), of the Statute

Kenya's candidate specialises in criminal law and procedure, including measures to combat gender-based violence, of which women and by extension children are victims.

5. Indicating under which nationality the candidate is being nominated for the purposes of article 36, paragraph 7, of the Statute

The candidate holds only Kenyan nationality.

6. Indicating the commitment of the candidate to be available to take up full-time service when the Court's workload so requires

Judge Wanjiru Karanja undertakes to make herself available to serve as a full-time judge when the workload of the Court so requires.
