

Nelson, Clarence Joseph (Samoa)

[original: English]

Statement of qualifications

The following statement is submitted in accordance with article 36.4 (a) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and paragraph 6 of the resolution of the Assembly of States Parties relating to the procedure for the nomination and election of Judges, the Prosecutor and Deputy Prosecutors of the International Criminal Court

1. Justice Vui Clarence Nelson, being a senior Supreme Court Justice holding extensive experience having served as a Supreme Court Judge of more than eighteen years' standing, and has served as the Vice Chair of the Committee of the Rights of a Child. He is a person of high moral character, impartiality and integrity who possesses the qualifications required in the Independent State of Samoa for appointment to the highest judicial office (article 36.3 (a));
2. Justice Nelson fulfils the requirements of both sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) of article 36.3 (b), as indicated in his curriculum vitae. He has established competence in criminal law and procedure and the necessary relevant experience, as prosecutor in the Office of the Attorney General and as an advocate in relevant areas of international law, in particular the law of human rights where he served as Samoa's Member (2015-2023) and former Vice-Chair at the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Justice Nelson has extensive experience in a professional legal capacity which is of relevance to the judicial work of the Court;
3. Judge Nelson has an excellent knowledge of and is fluent in English (article 36.3 (c));
4. Judge Nelson is being nominated for inclusion in list A for the purpose of article 36.5;
5. With respect to article 36.8 (a), sub-paragraph (i) and (iii):
 - (i) Judge Nelson is qualified and has practiced in Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands and New Zealand, all have Common Law legal systems.
 - (ii) Judge Nelson is a national of Samoa, a member State of the Asia Group; and
 - (iii) Judge Nelson is a male
6. With respect to article 36.8 (b), Judge Nelson has legal expertise on a wide range of specific issues relevant to the work of the Court, including, but not limited to, violence against women and children. His courtroom experience includes dealing with civil and criminal cases and other serious cases of violence and sexual assaults, human rights and particularly children's rights issues.