

Amani Cirimwami, Ezéchiél (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

[Original: French]

Statement of Qualifications

This statement is submitted pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of article 36 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has the honour to present the nomination of Mr Ezéchiél Amani Cirimwami, a national of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for election as a judge of the Court. The nomination of Mr Cirimwami was carried out in accordance with the procedure applicable in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the designation of nominees to the highest judicial offices, in conformity with paragraph 4 (a) of article 36 of the Rome Statute.

Mr. Cirimwami enjoys established high moral character, impartiality and integrity, and fulfils the conditions required for appointment to the highest judicial offices in his State. His professional career is distinguished by a rare and integrated combination of judicial functions, prosecutorial practice and international litigation, supported by a sustained academic commitment to international law.

He is being nominated for inclusion in List B and is based on an established competence in international law, particularly international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international criminal law, whilst also being notable for his direct and substantial experience in criminal law and criminal procedure.

In his capacity as a judge, Mr. Cirimwami has adjudicated complex criminal cases involving the assessment of the admissibility and probative value of evidence, the evaluation of conflicting testimony and the safeguarding of the rights of the defence, including in cases requiring particularly careful management of evidentiary material and witness credibility.

In his capacity as a prosecutor, he directed investigations concerning serious human rights violations, notably in contexts involving complex evidentiary assessments, sensitive witness testimony and the prosecution of serious international crimes. He thereby acquired practical experience in the management of complex evidentiary records and witness-related issues in challenging contexts.

Mr. Cirimwami also possesses extensive experience in international litigation. He appears as counsel before several international jurisdictions, notably the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, in cases in relation to serious violations of international law, including allegations of genocide and other international crimes. This practice has enabled him to develop a thorough expertise in complex evidentiary and procedural issues arising in international adjudication.

His profile is further strengthened by his engagement with the procedural foundations of international justice. He served as a researcher at the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law and as Associate Editor of the Max Planck Encyclopedia of International Procedural Law, contributing to one of the leading reference works in this field.

Mr. Cirimwami is Associate Professor of International Law at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Visiting Professor of International Humanitarian Law at the Catholic University of Louvain, and Visiting Professor of Human Rights and Military Operations at the Royal Military Academy of Belgium. Holding two doctorates in law, his research notably focuses on the prosecution of international crimes and the procedural dynamics of international adjudication.

Mr. Cirimwami has also contributed to international efforts aimed at strengthening the fight against impunity for international crimes, notably through his participation, as plenipotentiary delegate and member of the legal drafting committee, in the Ljubljana Diplomatic Conference that led to the adoption of the Ljubljana–The Hague Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes

against Humanity, War Crimes and Other International Crimes. In that capacity, he was directly involved in the drafting of provisions relating to jurisdiction, mutual legal assistance and extradition.

His approach to judicial office is guided by the need to ensure the highest standards of evidentiary rigour, strict respect for procedural guarantees and a careful balance between the rights of the defence and the interests of victims, including in cases involving vulnerable witnesses and complex factual situations. He considers that the legitimacy of the Court rests upon the quality and coherence of its legal reasoning.

Having been trained in a civil law legal system and possessing experience in international and comparative law, Mr. Cirimwami is in a strong position to contribute effectively to the work of the Court within a pluralistic legal environment. He is fluent in French and English and undertakes to be available to take up his full-time service.

He boasts a judicial profile combining practical criminal law experience with profound procedural expertise, enabling him to contribute to the work of the Court with clarity, rigour and authority in the adjudication of complex cases.