

Knudsen, Mette (Denmark)

[original: English]

Statement of qualifications

This statement is submitted in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4 (a) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and Paragraph 6 of the resolution of the Assembly of States Parties on the Procedure for the Nomination and Election of Judges, the Prosecutor and Deputy Prosecutors of the International Criminal Court (ICC-ASP/3/Resolution 6).

Denmark is nominating Judge Mette Lyster Knudsen as a candidate for the position of judge at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the elections to be held in December 2026 during the 25th session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP).

(a) The requirements set forth in article 36, Paragraph 3 (a), (b) and (c) of the Rome Statute

Judge Knudsen meets the requirements listed in these provisions:

- She is a person of high moral character that acts with impartiality, and integrity; and who possesses the qualifications required in Denmark for appointment to the highest judicial offices.
- She has more than 30 years of experience from senior positions both in the Danish Judiciary, the Ministry of Justice, and the National Police and prosecution services, providing her with the highest level of competence in criminal law and procedure.
- She has been the Chairperson of the Danish Expert Committee mandated to analyse Danish legislation and propose legislative amendments concerning the independent criminalisation of war crimes and other international crimes in the Danish Penal Code in accordance with the Rome Statute and make a recommendation on Ratification of the Amendment to the Rome Statute on the Crime of Aggression, providing her with the requisite level of competence in relevant areas of international law.
- She has extensive courtroom experience, managing successfully sensitive and complex cases as well as the needs and expectations of witnesses and victims.
- She is a strong consensus-builder and team-player, putting the integrity and legal quality of her court's work first.
- She is highly regarded for her expertise and collegiality both nationally and internationally, which is reflected, inter alia, in the leadership positions that her peers have elected her to assume in both the Danish, European, and International Association of Judges.

Judge Knudsen has an excellent command of English and extensive professional experience of working in English.

(b) Information regarding article 36, Paragraphs 7 and 8 (a) (i) to (iii) of the Rome Statute

Judge Knudsen is a Danish national and holds no other nationality. She will represent the civil law system and is a female candidate, nominated within the Group of Western European and Other States (WEOG).

(c) Nomination under the lists provided in article 36, Paragraph 5 of the Rome Statute

In view of her extensive experience as a judge, and practitioner of criminal law and procedure, Judge Knudsen, is nominated under list A.

(d) Expertise as described in article 36, Paragraph 8 (b) of the Rome Statute

Judge Knudsen has special expertise and practical experience regarding violence against women and children. She has worked on numerous cases in this area both as a police official, as a prosecutor, and as a judge, including in international settings.

In addition, Judge Knudsen has special expertise and practical experience in working with witnesses, survivors, and victims, including in cases involving sexual and gender-based violence. She has interviewed hundreds of witnesses, including in transnational cases and investigations.

Moreover, Judge Knudsen has special expertise and practical experience in the area of evidence and its role in trials. She has taught at university and conducted research in this field for 29 years, and has managed a high number of complex cases in the courtroom, including the fields of organised crime and terrorism, making her a leading national expert in this regard. Since May 2024, she has taught senior and specialised prosecutors and investigators in the field of complex domestic violence and abuse in intimate relationships as well as rape, including methods of interviewing and assessing the credibility of vulnerable and traumatised victims.

As a senior Danish High Court Judge, Judge Knudsen has a strong track record regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of courtroom procedures. She has served as a presiding judge and deputy presiding judge in dozens of high-stake criminal proceedings, including complex cases involving violence against women and children.

(e) Nomination procedure in accordance with article 36, Paragraph 4 (a) (ii) of the Rome Statute

Judge Knudsen was nominated as a Danish candidate by the Danish national group of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which is comprised of the Permanent Secretary of State for Justice Mr. Johan Kristian Legarth, the Danish Ministry of Justice; the President of the Danish Supreme Court Mr. Jens Peter Christensen; the Under-Secretary for Legal Affairs Ms. Vibeke Pasternak Jørgensen, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, and professor of international law Ms. Astrid Kjeldgaard-Pedersen, the Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen. The nomination took place in December 2025, following a presentation of Judge Knudsen by the Danish government.

(f) Acknowledgement of information provided regarding the requirements in article 36, Paragraph 3 (a), (b) and (c) of the Statute in accordance with article 36 Paragraph 4 (a) of the Rome Statute

I, Vibeke Pasternak Jørgensen, in my capacity as Under-Secretary for Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, and as member of the Danish national group of the Permanent Court of Arbitration responsible for the nomination of Judge Knudsen as a candidate for the position of judge at the ICC, acknowledge that the information provided regarding the requirements in article 36, Paragraph 3 (a), (b) and (c) of the Statute in accordance with article 36 Paragraph 4 (a) under sub-paragraph (a) is correct.

(g) Commitment to take up full-time service at the Court

Judge Knudsen commits to being available to take up full-time service when the Court's workload so requires. She will also be available for interviews before the Advisory Committee on Nominations of Judges as well as the public roundtable discussions to be organised by the New York Working Group under the Assembly of States Parties.