

Ankumah, Evelyn (Ghana)

[Original: English]

Note verbale

I have the honour, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Ghana, to convey the nomination of Ms. Evelyn Ama Ankumah as a candidate for election as Judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for 2027-2036 term, at the elections during the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly of States Parties, at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 7 to 17 December 2026.

This nomination is submitted pursuant to article 36(4) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which provides for the nomination and election of Judges of the Court, and in accordance with the Procedure for the Nomination and Election of Judges adopted by the Assembly of States Parties.

The candidature of Ms. Ankumah reflects Ghana's steadfast commitment to the promotion of international criminal justice, accountability, and the rule of law, as well as the strengthening of the international legal order through credible and principled multilateral institutions.

Ms. Evelyn Ama Ankumah is a distinguished lawyer and internationally recognized human rights and international criminal justice advocate, with extensive professional experience across Africa, Europe, and North America. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Africa Legal Aid (AFLA), a leading pan-African institution that has advanced access to justice, victim-centred approaches, and accountability mechanisms for vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Ms. Ankumah has made remarkable contributions to strengthening international justice systems, including through sustained initiatives promoting gender-sensitive and victim-centred justice, as well as promoting African engagement with international criminal justice processes. She is also a Special Adviser to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, contributing expert legal perspectives and supporting global efforts aimed at strengthening international accountability.

Her professional and scholarly engagements reflect strong competence in international adjudication, judicial reasoning, and institutional leadership. She has served as a Research Fellow and Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Department of International and European Law, Maastricht University, and has been engaged in advancing international legal norms and African perspectives in international justice discourse.

Ms. Ankumah's academic and professional qualifications include a Juris Doctor (JD) degree from the William Mitchell College of Law, Saint Paul, Minnesota, United States of America, and an Advanced Diploma in Human Rights from the International Institute of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France. She has also authored and edited several works on international criminal justice, human rights, and African legal perspectives, reflecting her intellectual depth and longstanding dedication to law and justice.

Beyond her legal credentials, Ms. Ankumah's extensive service demonstrates integrity, independence, fairness, and sound judgment – qualities essential for judicial office at the ICC. Her leadership in legal institutional development, combined with decades of practical engagement with victims' rights and justice systems, makes her exceptionally well-suited to contribute meaningfully to the Court's mandate.

At a time when international criminal justice remains vital to global peace, accountability, and human dignity, the Government of Ghana is confident that Ms. Ankumah's experience, competence, and commitment to justice will make her an invaluable asset to the bench of the Court. Ghana therefore submits her candidature for the esteemed consideration of the Assembly of States Parties.

Enclosed herewith are the curriculum vitae and statement of qualification of Ms. Evelyn Ama Ankumah for the information and consideration of the Assembly of States Parties.
