Wright, Veronic (The Gambia)

[Original: English]

Statement of qualifications

Statement of qualifications submitted in accordance with article 36 paragraph 6 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court and paragraph 6 of the resolution ICC-ASP/3/Res.6 of the on the nomination and election of judges of the Court (as amended).

The Republic of The Gambia presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Assembly of State Parties of the International Criminal Court and has the honour to present the following Statement of Qualifications of the Honourable Justice Veronic Wright, Judge of Court of Appeal of The Gambia, presented as candidate for election as judge of the International Criminal Court.

Compliance with article 36 paragraph 4 (a) (i)

In nominating Justice Wright as candidate for the position of judge of the ICC, The Gambia followed the procedure for appointment to the highest judicial offices. Upon receiving notification of ICC ASP Secretariat seeking nominations from State Parties, the Chief Justice of The Gambia through the Secretary of the Judicial Service Commission sent out a call for expression of interest to all judges and legal practitioners. Six Candidates expressed their interest and submitted their Curriculum Vitae to the Judicial Secretary and Secretary to the Judicial Service Commission. All six of them were subjected to an interview by the Judicial Service Commission. Justice Wright emerged as the most suitable candidate, and she was therefore recommended for nomination as The Gambia's candidate for the position of judge of the ICC. She was informed of this recommendation and she duly accepted it.

The recommendation was forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Gambians Abroad for onward transmission via diplomatic channels.

Compliance with article 36 paragraph 3 (a)

Justice Wright is a distinguished lawyer of more than 35 years of legal experience at the national and international field. She is of high moral character, impartiality and integrity who also possesses the qualifications, experience, and character required for appointment to the highest judicial offices in The Gambia. She is currently servicing as a Judge of the Court of Appeal and sits as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court on an ad-hoc basis.

Competence under article 36 paragraph 3 (b) (i)

Justice Wright has an established competence in criminal law and procedure.

Her professional experience spans the investigation and prosecution of both national and international crimes, organised crime and drug trafficking, crime prevention, and criminal justice administration, as well as the adjudication of criminal matters at the appellate level.

She began her career as a State Prosecutor in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions at the Ministry of Justice of The Gambia, rising to the rank of Principal State Counsel progressively handling serious criminal matters. Her subsequent service as Legal Adviser in the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Division of the Commonwealth

Secretariat involved extensive work on international cooperation in criminal matters and the provision of technical assistance to national criminal justice institutions across the Commonwealth.

At the United Nations, she held a range of senior legal positions, including:

1. Trial Attorney at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda,

2. Senior Analyst with the International Commission of Inquiry into the Assassination of Benazir Bhutto,

3. Senior Legal Adviser at the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC),

4. Head of the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Residual Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT–Arusha),

5. Senior Legal Adviser for Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes and Crimes Against Children at the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) and

6. Senior Programme Officer and Head of the Human Rights and Gender Section at the UN Office on Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).

At the ICTR, she was involved in the prosecution of four accused persons (*Prosecutor v. Simon Bikindi*, *Prosecutor v. Calixte Kalimazira*, *Prosecutor v. Emmanuel Rukundo* and *Prosecutor v. Augustin Ngirabatware*). As Head of the Office of the Prosecutor, Arusha Branch of the IRMCT, Judge Wright oversaw the start of the review of the case of *Augustin Ngirabatware* and the commencement of a case of contempt of the Tribunal in the *Prosecutor v. Maximilien Turinabo and Others*.

Compliance with article 36 paragraph 3 (c)

Justice Wright is fluent in English and has a very good working knowledge of French.

Compliance under article 36 paragraph 5

The Gambia nominates Hon. Justice Wright as a candidate for election to list A under article 36 paragraph 5 of the Rome Statute.

Information required under article 36 paragraph 7

Justice Wright is a national of The Gambia. She holds no other nationality.

Information required under article 36 paragraph 8(a)(i)-(iii)

Justice Wright comes from the Common Law legal system, is an African and a female candidate.

Compliance with article 36 paragraph 8(b)

Justice Wright possess expertise in sexual and gender-based crimes and crimes against children. She has investigated and prosecuted such crimes at home and internationally, determined such cases as an appellate judge, and trained national and international actors in these thematic areas. She has also managed programmes and provided policy advise on them.

Justice Wright also has legal expertise in other specific issues including human rights, international cooperation in criminal matters, transnational organised crime and terrorism.

Commitment to serve the Court full-time

Justice Wright is committed to be available to take up full-time service at the Court.

Acknowledgement by senior judicial officer

The Honourable Hassan Bubacar Jallow, Chief Justice of The Republic of The Gambia and Chairperson of the Judicial Service Commission, the authority that oversaw the nomination process, acknowledges the information provided above.