

Muzigo-Morrison, Rosette (Uganda)

[original: English]

Statement of qualifications

The Government of the Republic of Uganda hereby submits this “Statement of qualifications for the nominated candidate, pursuant to 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 of the Court (ICC-ASP/3/Res.6, as amended)”.

(a) Procedure for Nomination

Uganda followed the procedure for appointing to the highest judicial offices in Uganda, as outlined below, to nominate Ms Rosette Muzigo-Morrison. This is consistent with the requirements specified under article 36, paragraph 4(a)(i), of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The process entails constituting a selection panel of members of the Judicial Service Commission, making a recommendation to the appointing authority, the Head of State, who makes appointments to the highest judicial offices.

In this regard, a selection panel comprised of the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, a representative of the Attorney General’s Chambers (the Deputy Attorney General), who sits on the Judicial Services Commission, the body mandated to make judicial appointments, and a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (this being an international appointment) was established. The Panel received expressions of interest from five applicants between November 2024 and May 2025.

Following a review of all five candidates’ credentials, based on the criteria of article 36, the Panel determined that Ms Muzigo-Morrison possesses the requisite international criminal law practice of over thirty years at the international level. In particular, she has the all round international practice in prosecution, judicial, and registry work, and accordingly, Uganda’s best-suited candidate.

The Ministry of Justice made a recommendation to the appointing authority for the highest judicial office in the Country, namely, the Head of State.

The President endorsed the panel's recommendation in October 2025.

(b) Criteria of high moral character, impartiality and integrity

Ms Muzigo-Morrison is a person of high moral character, integrity, and impartiality. In 2023, Ms Muzigo-Morrison successfully completed the Court’s vetting process for election to the position of Registrar, and nothing has changed about her since that vetting. She is therefore a candidate who has already been through vetting for a high-level appointment at the Court.

(c) Possession of the qualifications required for appointment to the highest judicial offices at the national level

Ms Muzigo-Morrison possesses the academic qualifications and practical expertise for appointment to the highest judicial offices at the national level. She holds a Bachelor of Laws degree, two master’s degrees and is completing a PhD in international human rights law. Additionally, she has over thirty years of criminal law practice.

(d) Established competence in criminal law and procedure, and the necessary relevant experience, whether as judge, prosecutor, and advocate or in other similar capacity, in criminal proceedings as detailed below

Ms Muzigo-Morrison has established competence in criminal law and procedure, and the necessary relevant experience, as a registrar in judicial practice, as a prosecutor, or in other similar capacity, in criminal proceedings as detailed below;

i. Prosecution Experience

2016-2021 – Office of the Prosecutor, Legal Advisory Section/Operations Officer; International Criminal Court

Among other roles, she applied legal expertise to analyse draft briefs and memoranda, provided legal advice in relation to filings, conducted legal research/investigations, and drafted position papers related to emerging complex issues, prepared conference papers and represented the Prosecutor, drafted oral and written briefs/presentations that were delivered by ICC staff at the United Nations, and delivered lectures to universities, groups, and visiting experts, including representing the office as an Expert on the rule of law legal round table organised by NATO in 2019.

Additionally, Ms Muzigo-Morrison coordinated the implementation of the policies on sexual and gender-based crimes, and the policy of crimes against and affecting children between 2019 and 2021. It was her responsibility to ensure that all Prosecution Teams paid particular attention to these crimes at all stages of the office's work.

1995-1997 – International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; as an Investigator and Legal Officer

Ms Muzigo-Morrison was part of the pioneer Trial Team that arrived in Rwanda to investigate genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in Rwanda in 1994. Her role in investigating, preparing the indictment, and defending it before the confirmation Judge in the Prosecutor vs. Jean Paul Akayesu, the first case to convict rape as an element of genocide, is particularly noteworthy. Ms Muzigo-Morrison also led the investigations, preparation of the indictment, and its confirmation and the confirmation hearing in the Prosecutor vs. Georges Anderson Rutaganda. She led the selection of Prosecution witnesses and appeared for the Prosecutor. She was on the Butare files, particularly, in the preparation of the indictment of The Prosecutor vs Higaniro.

1995 February-July – International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia as a Fellow/Intern

Ms Muzigo-Morrison served in the Legal Advisory Section. In addition to conducting groundbreaking research on the classification of conflicts and the nexus of internationality, she was part of the Teams in the Duško Tadić case and The Prosecutor v. Dragan Nikolic case.

ii. Judicial Experience

2012-2015 – As a Legal Officer, Appeals Chamber, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Ms Muzigo-Morrison supported the work of the Judges and was involved in the deliberations, the preparation of decisions, orders, and judgments. She was part of the Team that drafted the Augustin Ndindiliyimana, François-Xavier Nzuwonemeye, and Innocent Sagahutu Vs. The Prosecutor. Additionally, Ms Muzigo-Morrison regularly filled in for ICTR Judges' Legal Officers when needed.

2005-2015 – Presiding Officer, Rule 33 B (Depositions); As Presiding Officer, Rule 33B bis International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

In 2005, Ms Muzigo-Morrison was appointed Presiding Officer for all hearings on the certification of witness testimony across Europe, the United States of America, and Canada. This entailed travelling to all locations where witnesses were located and presiding over the certification of their depositions in the presence of both the Prosecution and the Defence. The role imparted skills and experience in presiding over and managing hearings, which are vital for a judge.

iii. Registrar Experience

2000-2015 – As Registrar’s Representative - International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Having earlier on served as an Assistant to the Registrar, at the time when the Duty Stations of Rwanda (UNAMIR, under which the Tribunal operated initially had completed its mandate) and Arusha, Tanzania, were established, Ms Muzigo-Morrison was designated as the Representative of the Registrar to establish a Rwanda Tribunal Office in The Hague.

With the experience of pioneering the establishment of the first witnesses/victims support and protection section in international criminal justice, Ms Muzigo-Morrison’s experience was key to all registry functions, but particularly with the management, support and protection of persons of interest to the Tribunal. Her role included providing strategic advice and guidance to the Registrar on all services relating to witnesses and victims, and appearing for the Registrar. She established policies and created standard operating procedures for protocols related to the management, support, and protection of witnesses. She defined witnesses/victims’ rights, which included specifying their benefits and defining the responsibilities of witnesses and victims, before, during, and after testimony. The protocols pioneered culminated in the establishment of policies that translated international provisions of human rights instruments to practical application, for the benefit of witnesses and victims. These protocols and policies have since been adopted in all international tribunals and the Court.

2006-2008 – Special Court for Sierra Leone

The decision to conduct the highly publicised and sensitive trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in The Hague required an experienced representative of the Registrar. Ms Muzigo-Morrison was loaned from the Rwanda Tribunal to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to assume this role, demonstrating the United Nation’s Office of Legal Affairs’ recognition of her experience in Registry matters. Ms Muzigo-Morrison liaised with Host Country authorities and spearheaded negotiations to establish cooperation protocols/agreements for the management and movement of witnesses and victims across continents. This meant overcoming challenges, including obtaining immigration waivers and ensuring the provision of protection for safe houses and for movements to and from the Court. This insight of incorporating cultural diversity, gender mainstreaming, incorporating mechanisms to support victims with special needs, victims of sexual and gender based crimes, and witnesses who were children at the time the crimes were committed, has a direct impact on the trials. A judge who has benefited from being part of the process of building mechanisms to protect and support victims will be an asset to the bench.

2000-2015

Experience working with accused persons, the defence and their families; As a Registrar’s representative for seventeen years, Ms Muzigo-Morrison had the rare privilege of working directly with accused persons, defence teams, establishing mechanisms for the implementation of defence rights, liaison with their families, especially when family members had to give evidence. For example, time with the families of three former heads of state gave her a rare insight into defence cases, which we believe is important, and helped her appreciate the challenges faced by all parties in international criminal justice.

(e) Knowledge of and fluency in either English or French

Ms Muzigo-Morrison is a native English speaker and has received all her education in English. She is at the B1 level of French.

(f) Indication of nomination for List A or List B

Based on her academic qualifications and practice with international criminal tribunals, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Independent Commission of Inquiry on Libya and the International Criminal Court, Ms Muzigo-Morrison is hereby nominated under list B.

(g) Information relating article 36, paragraph 8(a)(i) to (iii), of the Rome Statute

For the purposes of article 36, paragraph 8(a)(i) to (iii), of the Rome Statute, Ms Muzigo-Morrison received her education from Uganda, the United States of America, and the Republic of Ireland. That would make her more inclined towards the **Common law system**. However, having practised

international criminal law with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the ICC, she is well versed in both the civil law and common law systems.

(h) Gender and Regional Group

Ms Rosette Muzigo-Morrison identifies as a female and a member of the Africa Regional Group.

(i) Legal expertise on specific issues, including, but not limited to, violence against women or children

In addition to being part of the Prosecution Team for the first case to convict rape as an element of genocide, Ms Muzigo-Morrison has, since 2009 to date, served as a UN Women/Justice Rapid Response Expert. In that regard, she is a roster member for investigating and prosecuting conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence. She has been deployed as an Investigator in Libya and as a Witness/Victims' Support Expert in Rwanda.

Ms Muzigo is also an expert in investigating allegations of Sexual Abuse and exploitation, bullying, harassment, including sexual harassment and misconduct. She was deployed to Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She has also been deployed as a Protection Expert and has established a programme to support, protect, and advocate for Witnesses/Victims/Whistleblowers.

Since 2019, she has served as an expert and Trainer of Trainers in recognising, investigating, and prosecuting sexual and gender based crimes and crimes against or affecting children for NATO. She has, in this regard, contributed to a manual for training NATO service personnel deployed in crisis situations. The manual was published in 2021. She has conducted training for Ukrainian, Polish, and other investigators and prosecutors.

This practical and academic experience makes Ms Muzigo uniquely qualified to be a judge at the ICC, having experience with all organs of the Tribunals/Courts: the prosecution, the registry, and the judiciary. She brings insight and courtroom experience, uniquely informed by both academic knowledge and field experience. This is what makes Ms Muzigo-Morrison an unparalleled qualified candidate for the position of Judge of the ICC.

(j) Nationality under which the candidate is nominated

Ms Muzigo is a Ugandan national and exercises her civic rights in Uganda.

(k) Commitment to take up full-time service

Ms Muzigo is dedicated to being available to assume the role of Judge at the ICC, full-time, when the Court's workload requires her service.