

Kelly, Kevin (Ireland)

[original: English]

Statement of qualifications

Having served on the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims since December 2021, Ambassador Kevin Kelly has proven himself to be an active, committed and effective champion of change in the governance and strategic direction of the Fund. He played a leadership role in managing the transition of senior leadership during his first term on the Board, and was a very proactive focal point for Communications and Fundraising. Ambassador Kelly hopes that a second (and final) term of office on the Board will allow him to support this change process and help embed the reform agenda initiated.

With a career in international affairs spanning over thirty years, including over twenty-four years with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Kevin Kelly has the required experience and qualifications to meet the vast majority of the desired competencies for continued membership of the Trust Fund Board of Directors. Ambassador Kelly's academic studies in University College Dublin and the School of Law in Queens University (both at Masters level), coupled with his hands on engagement over five years as Ireland's Ambassador to the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court in The Hague greatly deepened his knowledge and understanding of the Rome Statute framework.

He has led and delivered a large range of foreign policy, peace & security, humanitarian and development outcomes at the most senior levels including: Ambassador and Deputy Ambassador in Ireland's bilateral missions in Africa, Europe and now Asia. His experience as UN Director, as Director for Conflict Resolution and Humanitarian Director in the Department of Foreign Affairs has afforded him practical experience which speaks to most of the requirements of the Board of Directors. Having also held senior management positions in fragile and conflict affected contexts in Africa with the Irish Government, the World Bank and international NGOs, Mr. Kevin Kelly possesses the requisite institutional experience relevant to the mandates of the Trust Fund for Victims.

Mr. Kevin Kelly was Ambassador to Uganda in 2010 when the first Review Conference on the Rome Statute was held in Kampala, during which Ireland organized a seminar on cooperation with the Court. Kevin Kelly was a member of Ireland's delegation and following the Conference continued to support Uganda's efforts in the field of international criminal justice through Ireland's engagement in the multi-donor capacity building programme for the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS).

His experience in Uganda meant that Ambassador Kelly was well placed to take a lead role in The Hague for Ireland in relation to the ICC, building on Ireland's already strong reputation as a supporter of the Court. In conjunction with HQ, it was decided that the rights of victims would become a key priority of Ireland's engagement with the ICC. Over the years, as Ambassador and later Board Member, Ambassador Kelly has engaged with the Trust Fund to sponsor and co-host side events at several Assemblies of States Parties conferences in The Hague and New York.

Under Mr. Kelly's leadership, eleven States Parties to the Rome Statute, along with the President of the Assembly of State Parties, undertook a mission to Northern Uganda in 2018 in order to assess the impact and promote the work of the Trust Fund for Victims. In the year which marked the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute, Ireland took the initiative to organize the visit in order to promote the Fund but also to help change the narrative of the ICC in Africa. This visit was followed up by an equally successful mission to Northern Uganda in 2022, led by Mr Kelly's successor Ambassador of Ireland to Netherlands.
