

Parmas, Andres (Estonia)

[original: English]

Statement of qualifications

This statement is submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of the resolution of the Assembly of States Parties on the Procedure for the nomination and election of members of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims (ICC-ASP/1/Res.7).

Andres Parmas has been serving on the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims since 2021 and has taken an active role during his term of office. He has been concentrating in enhancing effectiveness of engagement of the Board to the decision making of the TFV. Andres Parmas has cooperated with other Board members to achieve change in the management of the TFV and smooth transition of leadership to a new executive director. He has advocated and contributed to increasing the role of the Board in the work of the TFV and making the Board and the TFV more visible and better heard in the international community to better implement the tasks and expectations that the States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC have entrusted to the Trust Fund. Mr Parmas has contributed to drafting the reasoned opinion of the Trust Fund to the recommendations of the IER report on the TFV. Mr Parmas has functioned as a focal point in the Ntaganda case.

Mr Parmas has extensive professional experience in assisting victims of serious crimes both in terms of policy and practice.

As the Prosecutor General of Estonia, one of his main tasks is to deal with issues concerning the problems of victims of crimes. He is directing the creation of policies in regard of participation of victims in criminal proceedings, their access to relief services, assistance available to the victims etc. To promote the interests of victims Mr Parmas concluded an Agreement with Estonian Bar Association on behalf of the Prosecutor's Office in the fall of 2020 for engaging victims of crimes in the criminal investigation phase. A state prosecutor specialised in juveniles and the treatment of victims was appointed in the Prosecutor's Office. He is also insisting interagency efforts for more meaningful work in advancing the rights of victims. In order to be aware of the level of Prosecutor's Office's services and of any possible shortcomings the satisfaction of victims with the services and assistance available to them during criminal proceedings is constantly gathered and assessed. Mr Parmas also calls for active outreach to victims. He is working to find innovative and efficient methods to take better notice of the needs of victims of crimes. For this reason, e.g. the methods of restorative justice are being introduced in the work of the Prosecutor's Office under his supervision. Mr Parmas is a member to Estonian council of crime prevention, which has in recent years put the assistance of victims of crimes at the centre of its activities.

While being appointed as the judge in roster for the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, Mr Parmas actively participated in the setting out of the regulatory framework and standards for victim participation at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers proceedings. In 2013-2014 Mr Parmas worked as an EULEX legal officer in the courts of Kosovo, where among other tasks he had to work with representatives of the victims of grave violations of international humanitarian law and of crimes against humanity in the ongoing criminal proceedings.
