

SAWADA, Satoko (Japan)

[Original: English]

Note verbale

The Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of the Netherlands presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and, with reference to the Secretariat's note ICC-ASP/25/SP/55, has the honour to inform the latter that the Government of Japan has decided to nominate Ms. SAWADA Satoko as a candidate for the members of the Committee on Budget and Finance (CBF) for the term 2027-2029 at the elections to be held during the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly of States Parties scheduled to be held in New York from 7 to 17 December 2026.

Ms. Sawada has extensive experience and recognized standing in financial and administrative matters at the international level. Currently posted at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva, she possesses an in-depth understanding of the financial and budgetary challenges facing international organizations, acquired through extensive dialogue and engagement with member states and international organizations. In light of the UN80 Initiative and in response to the financial challenges facing the United Nations and other related agencies, Ms. Sawada has been actively engaged in budgetary and organizational discussions within various international organizations in Geneva, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) as a key donor country.

Throughout her career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Sawada has been engaged with a diverse range of international organizations across various fields, including judicial matters, humanitarian affairs, development, migration, disaster risk reduction, health, investment, and trade, demonstrating her versatility in navigating complex international frameworks. Notably, having worked in the International Judicial Proceedings Division, which oversees principal international judicial bodies such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), Ms. Sawada possesses comprehensive knowledge of international legal frameworks, including the Rome Statute and ICC rules and regulations. Her experience extends to international dispute settlement, where she has managed Japan's involvement in proceedings before the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international arbitral fora, and negotiated multilateral international agreements, highlighting her expertise in complex economic and legal matters. Furthermore, as a member of the organizing committee of the Tokyo International Law Seminar (TILS), an initiative launched by Japan to strengthen capacity building for government officials, she effectively managed a broad range of

administrative issues and led logistical negotiations with key stakeholders, showcasing her strong organizational and administrative capabilities.

Such extensive experience and expertise, as outlined in Ms. Sawada's curriculum vitae attached herewith, attest to her fulfillment of the requirement, set forth in paragraph 2 of the annex to the resolution establishing the CBF (ICC-ASP/1/Res.4), that members of the Committee shall be experts of recognized standing and experience in financial matters at the international level.

Japan has consistently supported the activities of the International Criminal Court since its establishment, and having formally become a State Party to the Rome Statute on 1 October 2007 and consistently being the largest contributor to the Court's budget, intends to remain a strong supporter of the Court. The decision of the Government of Japan to present the candidature of Ms. Sawada for election to the CBF reflects its firm commitment to continue exerting its utmost efforts to facilitate the activities of the Court. The Government of Japan is fully confident that the candidate possesses the necessary experience, expertise and knowledge in financial and budgetary affairs, as well as recognised standing at the international level, to make a strong contribution to the important work of the Committee.
