

## Statement of qualifications

The declaration below is submitted pursuant to article 36 of the Rome Statute and paragraph 6 of the resolution of the Assembly of States Parties on the Procedure for the nomination and election of judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC/ASP/3/Res.6).

The candidacy of Judge Dr. Leslie Van Rompaey, former President of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, is submitted for the consideration of the States Parties to the International Criminal Court. Judge Dr. Leslie Van Rompaey is deemed to have the special and exceptional competencies required for appointment as judge of the International Criminal Court (under list A), as attested by his extensive judicial experience and his commitment throughout his career to the principles and objectives underlying the Rome Statute.

Judge Dr. Leslie Van Rompaey has devoted his entire professional career to the service of justice. Shortly after he completed his studies at the University of the Republic, obtaining the degree of Doctor of Law and Social Sciences with brilliant grades, his vocation led him to join the judiciary at the starting level, that is, as Justice of the Peace. His early successes in the judiciary led to his subsequent constant and unimpeded promotions; in 2004 he became President of the Supreme Court of Justice, the highest rank that a Judge of the Republic can hold. Recognizing his exceptional professional qualifications, his peers elected him President of the Supreme Court once again for the 2011 – 2012 period.

The sense of justice and the commitment to the aims and objectives of the International Criminal Court that have been evidenced by Judge Dr. Van Rompaey throughout his entire career can be summarized by the transcendental change undergone by the jurisprudence of the Supreme Court of Justice of Uruguay during the time he served in that body. It declared the unconstitutionality of what was known as the Law on the Expiry of the Punitive Claims of the State, which enshrined the legal impediment for bringing to trial those members of the armed forces who had been indicted for violations of human rights during the military dictatorship in Uruguay, in the 1973-1985 period.

This turn of events made it possible for the Supreme Court of Justice to convict, for the first time, the repressive members of the military who had acted throughout the period. This emerges, for example, from the judgments issued in the cases of Major José Gavazzo *et al.*, convicted on 28 counts of especially aggravated manslaughter, and of the former *de facto* President General Gregorio Álvarez *et al.*, convicted on 37 counts of especially aggravated manslaughter.

It should be pointed out that the opinion of the Supreme Court of Justice concerning the “Expiry Law”, as well as the judgments delivered, received the utmost attention of national public opinion, given the political sensitivity of the cases in question.

Furthermore, the relevance of the actions of Judge Van Rompaey for the Supreme Court of Justice, and thus for national jurisprudence, is confirmed by the fact that he was entrusted with drafting the two judgments that made it possible to bring former *de facto* President Dr. Juan María Bordaberry to criminal trial.

The professional career of Judge Van Rompaey has not been restricted to the responsibilities of the judiciary in Uruguay; he has also devoted his energies to legal and juridical issues at the regional and international levels. In this regard, his participation both as a speaker and as a consultant is as intense as it is recognized; he has participated in different fora, such as specialized conferences and projects organized by different juridical institutions, such as the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD), the Inter-American Bar Foundation, the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINAGUA), and the United Nations themselves.

Dr. Van Rompaey is likewise intensely involved in lecturing in several specialized centers where Law is taught. He also carries out legal investigation, as is evidenced by his publication of a considerable number of papers and specialized works.

Judge Dr. Van Rompaey's established competence is further evidenced by several requests made by the national authorities for his advice on key issues for the advancement and organization of the legal system of Uruguay. In this regard, he has achieved recognition for his contributions to the implementation of the new General Procedural Code, the constitutional reform of the judiciary fostered by the Executive in 1993, and the practical improvements introduced in the administration of justice.

As concerns the requisites contained in article 36, paragraph 3 (c) of the Rome Statute, Judge Dr. Leslie Van Rompaey is fluent in the working languages of the International Criminal Court, as well as in Portuguese and Italian.

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