

## **Murungi, Betty Kaari (Kenya)**

[Original: English]

### **Statement of qualifications**

Betty Kaari Murungi has over 23 years' broad experience in the practice of law at the national, regional and international levels; ten years' experience in the management and governance of non-governmental and non-profit organizations. She has extensive background in international human rights in the context of violent conflict, and experience in international criminal justice and accountability mechanisms coupled with experience in international law and transitional justice issues, women's human rights, constitutionalism, governance and social justice philanthropy.

### **Education**

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, United States of America.

Visiting Fellow, Human Rights Program (2005-2006).

Kenya School of Law, Nairobi, Kenya.

Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Education (1985).

University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya, Bachelor of Laws (Honours) (1984).

### **Competence profile**

Legal professional with over 23 years' broad experience in the practice of law at the national, regional and international levels; 10 years' experience in the management and governance of non-governmental and non-profit organizations. Extensive background in international human rights in the context of violent conflict, and experience in international criminal justice and accountability mechanisms; extensive experience in international law and transitional justice issues, women's human rights, constitutionalism, governance and social justice philanthropy; excellent understanding of the United Nations and African Union mechanisms and systems for human rights protection. Demonstrated intellectual leadership and ability to integrate knowledge with broader strategic, policy and operational objectives; successful and trained organizational fundraiser; confident, creative, independent and flexible individual able to take initiative and responsibility; demonstrated ability to lead and coordinate the work of teams and individuals ensuring quality and timeliness of outputs; thorough knowledge and understanding of international relations and politics. Superior skills in writing, analysis and communication. Highly developed negotiating skills; a person of integrity with over 15 years' progressive experience working and learning in multicultural and multidisciplinary environments.

### **Relevant professional development**

- TRANSCEND Advanced International Training Programme on peacebuilding, conflict transformation and post-war reconstruction, reconciliation and resolution - a five-day international training programme for practitioners, policymakers, international and national agency staff and non-governmental organizations working in peacebuilding, conflict transformation and post-war recovery. TRANSCEND and the Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania, 22-26 November 2004, Cluj-Napoca, Romania (Certificate).

- Allavida's East Africa Foundations Learning Group: Advancing the learning of local philanthropy and community asset building, Nairobi, Kenya, 7 March 2004.
- Women's Funding Network (WFN) - Training on fundraising and philanthropy for social change: the Women of Colour Development Incubator inaugural class, September 2002, May 2003, San Francisco, California, United States of America (Certificate).
- Board Source / Kituo Cha Katiba - Critical Components in Non-Profit Governance, Self-Assessment for Governing Boards (Training of Trainers), Naivasha, Kenya, 4-8 February 2002 and 18-19 July 2002 (Certificate).

### **Relevant experience**

July 2001 - present	<p>Founding director, Urgent Action Fund - Africa, Nairobi, Kenya.</p> <p>Urgent Action Fund's mission is to advance the human rights of women and girls globally with a primary focus in areas of armed conflict or escalating violence. The Fund accomplishes its objectives through a programme of Urgent Action grant-making and special initiatives that promote women's involvement in transitional justice mechanisms through providing technical expertise.</p>
March 1999 - present	<p>Legal Adviser, Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations – Women's Rights Program, Rights and Democracy, Montreal, Canada.</p> <p>The Coalition on Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations is comprised of lawyers, legal scholars, women's rights activists and non-governmental organizations concerned with international justice; its mandate is to ensure that crimes against women are adequately investigated and prosecuted in the United Nations ad hoc tribunals, national hybrid tribunals and at the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Coalition seeks solutions to the invisibility of women's human rights abuses in conflict situations, to condemn the practice of sexual violence and other inhumane treatment of women as deliberate instruments of war, and to ensure that these are prosecuted as war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of genocide, where appropriate. Working at the local and international levels, Coalition members act as a resource for consultation and debate on substantive issues related to the integration of a gender perspective in post-conflict transitional justice systems. Coalition efforts also seek to strengthen international and regional capacity to monitor women's human rights in conflict and post-war situations through the creation of appropriate mechanisms of accountability and the assessment of their transferability to other contexts.</p>
October 1995 - February 2001	Founding Partner, Murungi & Co. Advocates, Nairobi.
February 1993 - September 1995	Partner, Guatama & Kibuchi Advocates.
January 1990 - June 1992	Credit Manager, Diners Finance.
September 1985 - December 1989	Associate, Mereka & Co. Advocates, Nairobi, Kenya.

## Career highlights

Presently and since 2002	Serving as an acknowledged expert consultant on matters of transitional justice and human rights for national, regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as multilateral bodies. Key among these: United Nations agencies - United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for the Great Lakes Region, Department of Public Information (DPI), the General Assembly (GA), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Republic of Rwanda – Supreme Court, the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), the Coalition for an International Criminal Court (CICC), the Nobel Women’s Initiative, the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue, Rights and Democracy, the Kenya National Commission for Human Rights, the Kenya Women Judges Association, International Commission of Jurists Kenya, and the Amani Parliamentary Forum.
2001	Founding a Pan-African grant-making organization to support women responding to conflict and providing the necessary technical assistance to women in post-conflict situations in particular to Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Northern Uganda on engaging with international and local transitional justice mechanisms.
2003/2004	Providing training and other technical support to Commissioners and staff of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) on international gender crimes and mechanisms for victim and witness support and protection ahead of the TRC hearings.
November - December 2004	Working with the Sierra Leone TRC as a United Nations consultant to develop the conclusions and recommendations drawn from the testimonies and submissions on record with the Commission and validating the TRC recommendations on women and reparations in its final report.
1998 - 2009	Monitoring the trials at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) on the investigations and prosecution of gender crimes.
2006	Working as a United Nations consultant at the Rwanda Supreme Court to provide training for judges, magistrates and police prosecutors on international criminal law as it relates to sexual and gender based crimes and the practice of international justice mechanisms in the prosecution of these crimes.
1995 - 2002	Delegate of the Coalition for an International Criminal Court for an effective and independent international criminal court at all the United Nations Preparatory Commission meetings. Served as the chairperson of the Women’s Caucus for Gender Justice in New York and at The Hague.
July 1998	CICC delegate to the Rome Conference for an International Criminal Court.

**Select conferences, seminars and training:** human rights, peace, international law and transitional justice

- Participant at the third, fourth and fifth sessions of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, The Hague, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007.
- Resource person: Amani Forum Workshop for Parliamentarians from the Great Lakes Region - The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, “Women peace and security - a look at the issues”, Nairobi, Kenya, 14-16 July 2004.
- Facilitator: Technical meeting on the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region: Women, Peace, and Security, Nairobi, Kenya, 7-8 June 2004.
- Rapporteur: Third Assembly of the World Movement for Democracy, Durban, South Africa, 1-4 February 2004.
- Facilitator: United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and Urgent Action Fund consultative meeting with women’s organizations in Sierra Leone to validate findings of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Freetown, Sierra Leone, 18-19 November 2003.
- Speaker: Kenya Human Rights Commission and the Task Force on the Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission Kenya, International Conference on the Truth Commission, Nairobi, Kenya, August 2003.
- Facilitator and host: Urgent Action Fund - Consultative Meeting on Engendering the Application of Regional and International Instruments and Mechanisms of Peace and Conflict Resolution in Africa, Naivasha, Kenya, 2-4 June 2003.
- Resource person: Civil Society and the Democratization of Global Governance: Human Rights and Global Governance in the 21st Century: Civil society and the Indivisibility of Human Rights, Palais des Congrès, Montréal, Québec, Canada, 13-16 October 2002.
- Participant: Urgent Action Fund - Expert Consultation on Gender Focused Rapid Response Teams, London, United Kingdom, November 2002.
- Participant in the meetings of the United Nations Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court (ICC), New York, United States of America, February 1997 to March 2002.
- Facilitator: Urgent Action Fund - Regional Consultation on United Nations Resolution 1325, Kampala, Uganda, 25-26 March 2002.
- Participant: The African Women’s Development and Communications Network (FEMNET) - Regional Strategy Meeting on African Women’s Political Participation and Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) and its specialized mechanisms from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the African Union (AU): Strategies for African Women, Nairobi, Kenya, October 2003.
- Legal Adviser: The Women’s International War Crimes Tribunal for the Trial of Japan’s Military Sexual Slavery (The Tokyo Tribunal 2000), Tokyo, Japan, December 2000.
- Participant: Meeting of experts convened by Rights and Democracy, Montréal, Canada together with the Special Representative for the Secretary-General on Violence against Women (SRVAW) on developing her mandate, March 1999 and March 2000.
- Speaker: Closing ceremony of “The Hague Appeal for Peace”, with distinguished panelists among them Kofi Annan, then Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Queen Noor of Jordan, The Hague, Netherlands, May 1999.
- Participant: United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the establishment of an International Criminal Court, Rome, Italy, July 1998.

- Participant: Parliamentarians for Global Action Conference on Ensuring State Co-operation with the ICTR, Cape Town, South Africa, February 1995.

### **Governance**

- Key facilitator: Corporate Governance Training for the Sports Stadium Management Board (SSMB) Directors, Naivasha, Kenya, 11-14 March 2004.
- Evaluation of FIDA Kenya Programs, 2001-2003.
- Board Source / Kituo Cha Katiba - Board Development Workshop for Practitioners, Naivasha, Kenya, 1-3 March 2003.
- Co-facilitator: FIDA Kenya - Board Induction Training, Responsibilities of Non-Profit Boards, Mombasa, 7-11 March 2003.
- Co-facilitator: Corporate Governance Training for the Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) Board of Directors, Mombasa, Kenya, 24-28 September 2003.
- Ford Foundation's international workshop: Protecting the rights and addressing the responsibilities of non-governmental organizations, Bandung, Indonesia, 6-8 January 2003.

### **Women's rights**

- Resource person: Several FIDA Kenya advocacy workshops for Members of Parliament on the Equality and Family Protection Bills, 2002-2004.
- Resource person: International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) on the Protocol on the Rights of Women to the African Charter.

### **International justice**

- Facilitator: Isis Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE) Training programme on documenting violations against women during violent conflict, Nairobi, Kenya, November 2003.
- Resource person: The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) on the International Criminal Court.
- Facilitator: Africa Legal Aid - Promoting Accessibility to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and increasing understanding on universal jurisdiction for international crimes, Accra, Ghana, 2-6 September 2002.
- Facilitator: UNIFEM and Urgent Action Fund - Africa "Partnering for Gender Justice", Seminar for Commissioners and Staff of the TRC, Freetown, Sierra Leone, 9-12 April 2003.

### **Honours and awards**

December 2003     Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear (MBS) - Kenya national honour for distinguished service in the field of human rights.

### **Book chapters**

- "The Legitimacy of Human Rights NGOs in Kenya" in *Human Rights NGOs in East Africa: Political and Normative Tension*, ed. Makau Mutua, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008.
- "Women and Citizenship Rights", in *Perspectives on Gender Discourse*, Heinrich Böll Foundation, July 2003.

- “Understanding Truth Commissions and Women’s Participation in Transitional Justice Processes”, in *Perspectives on Gender Discourse*, ed. Jacinta Muteshi, Heinrich Böll Foundation, April 2004.

### Select journal articles

- “Implementing the International Criminal Court Statute in Africa”, *The East African Journal of Peace and Human Rights*, Vol. 7: 1, p. 118.
- “A Gender Perspective on Universal Jurisdiction” in “African Perspectives on Universal Jurisdiction for International Crimes”, *Africa Legal Aid Quarterly*, October 2001.
- “Trading Justice for Truth”, Truth Commissions in Africa, Centre for Governance and Democracy, 2003.
- “Understanding Truth Commissions and women’s participation in Transitional Justice Processes”, FIDA Kenya Annual Report 2003.
- “Ending Impunity for Gender Crimes - Regional Tribunals and the International Criminal Court”, FIDA Kenya Annual Report 2002.
- “Amnesty, International Law Norms and Instruments: Making a case for Universal Jurisdiction in an age of Truth Commissions and Amnesties”, Transparency International Kenya Report 2003.
- “Implementing the International Criminal Court Statute in Africa”, *International Legal Practitioner*, Vol. 26, No. 3.

### Unpublished research, papers and lectures

- “*Transitional Politics and Justice: Rwanda’s Response*”, research project, Harvard Law School, Human Rights Program 2005/2006.
- “*Rising Up in Response: African Women Taking Action*”, Talking for Peace - A Karl Kahane lecture series, the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue and the Karl Kahane Foundation, 15 October 2008.
- “*A Normative Framework for Africa’s Responses: Lessons and Challenges - a perspective on the ICTR and Sierra Leone Special Court*”, Republic of Rwanda Supreme Court Workshop on Investigation, Prosecution and Adjudication of Sexual and Gender Based Crimes, 27-28 November 2007.
- “*The Role of Civil Society on Issues of Justice and in Bringing Governments and Institutions to Account*”, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) conference, 29 August 2007.
- “*African mechanisms, institutions, instruments and approaches to addressing sexual violence against women and girls: what opportunities?*”, ACORD Conference on restoring peace and challenging impunity on sexual-based violence in times of conflict, Nairobi, Kenya, 28 March 2007.
- “*Transitional Justice/Truth and Reconciliation Initiatives: Have they addressed violence against women and girls and its intersection with HIV/AIDS in conflict and emergency situations?*”, Action Aid Conference on African Regional Strategic Consultation on Violence against Women and its Intersection with HIV/AIDS in Conflict/Emergency Situations in Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, 29 November - 1 December 2006.
- “*The International Criminal Court: Negotiating the gender provisions in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*”, International Council on Human Rights Policy and International Commission of Jurists Workshop on International Standard Setting Processes, Geneva, Switzerland, 13-14 February 2005.
- “*Women Peace and Security - a look at the issues*”, The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region: Amani Forum Consultation, Nairobi, Kenya, 14-16 July 2004.

- *“Establishing Accountability through Criminal Tribunals: The Rwandan Experience, the case of the ICTR and the Gacaca Tribunals”*, UN Conference on Civil Society and the Democratization of Global Governance, Montréal, Canada, 13-16 October 2002.

#### **Professional affiliations**

- International Bar Association (IBA).
- East Africa Law Society (EALS).
- Federation of Women Lawyers, Kenya (FIDA Kenya).

#### **Current service on non-governmental organization boards**

- The Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) - Vice-Chairperson.
- Akiba Uhaki (human rights and social justice fund) - Chairperson.

#### **Past service on non-governmental organization boards**

- Chairperson - Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice (WIGJ), The Hague, Netherlands.
- Chairperson - Women’s Caucus for Gender Justice at the International Criminal Court, New York.
- Board Member - Kituo Cha Katiba, the East African Centre for Constitutional Development, Kampala, Uganda.
- Board Member - FIDA Kenya.
- Board Member - Urgent Action Fund for Women’s Human Rights.

#### **Languages**

Kimeru: fluent, mother tongue.

Kiswahili: fluent, spoken and written.

Kenyan languages, basic understanding: Dholuo, Gikuyu, Kiambu, Kikamba.

English: fluent, spoken and written - school language of instruction.

French: basic (2 years high school).

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