

27 January 2011

**Coalition for the International Criminal Court Announces  
Global Campaign on ICC Elections**  
*Global Coalition Committed to Ensuring  
Independent, Fair, Transparent, and Merit-based Elections*

***The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC/Coalition) is pleased to announce the launch of its Campaign on International Criminal Court (ICC) Elections, in view of a set of crucial elections to be held in 2011.***

During 2011, the Assembly of State Parties (ASP) of the Rome Statute of the ICC (the ICC's governing body) will elect six new judges, a new chief Prosecutor, an ASP President, two Vice-Presidents, a 21-member Bureau (the executive committee of the ASP) and six members of the Committee on Budget and Finance. Elections will also be held for the President and Vice Presidents of the ICC in early 2012.

Thus, these upcoming elections will lead to the most significant changes in leadership of the ICC and Rome Statute system since the inaugural elections in 2003. The elections will also coincide with major developments in international justice, including the conclusion of the ICC's first trials, as well as the near-conclusion of the mandates of the ad hoc and special tribunals—all of which will certainly impact the ICC.

The purpose of the Coalition's **Campaign on the ICC Elections** is to:

- (1) Promote the nomination and election of the most highly qualified officials through fair, merit-based, and transparent processes;
- (2) Uphold the Rome Statute principles of a fair, effective and independent ICC representing all of the world's regions and major legal systems as well as maintaining equitable gender representation.

Planned activities include a global advocacy campaign involving civil society partners around the world, governments and international/regional institutions, and media actions.

The Coalition strongly opposes reciprocal political agreements ("vote-trading") in ICC elections. The Coalition as a whole does not endorse or oppose individual candidates but advocates for the integrity of the nomination and election procedures. Individual member organisations of the Coalition may choose to take positions on particular candidates in representing their own respective organizations, but these positions may not be taken in the name of the Coalition.

The Coalition's larger elections campaign will address all of the aforementioned ICC/ASP elections; the information below describes the Coalition's specific efforts in regards to the judicial and prosecutorial elections.

### **(1) 2011 Judicial Elections**

In 2011, the ASP will elect six of the ICC's 18 judges, which will result in a significant change to the bench's composition.

Nominations will open in June 2011 and close in September 2011, with the election to be held at the ASP meeting in December 2011. While, a judicial candidate must be a national

of a State Party to the Rome Statute, the candidate can be nominated by any State Party and is not required to be nominated by the state of which the candidate is a national. As of January 2011, there are 114 States Parties to the Rome Statute.

In an effort to identify the best candidates and provide transparent and accurate information regarding their respective qualifications and professional background, the Coalition will seek input from national, regional, and international NGOs throughout its global network.

### ***Educate and Promote Highest Qualified Nominations***

The Coalition and like-minded governments succeeded in securing important provisions in the Rome Statute to enhance qualifications, to foster genuine elections, and insure equitable gender representation. The Coalition is now committed to ensuring the full application of these provisions.

Since the first elections in 2003, the Coalition has helped publicize and raise awareness on the elections and candidates. The Coalition asks all nominees to fill out questionnaires that provide additional information about the candidates' qualifications. The Coalition seeks to interview all candidates, hold public seminars with available candidates and experts, and host public debates between the candidates. These actions will help enable nominees to expand on their respective qualifications and expertise, as well as to promote fully-informed decision-making by State Parties delegates.

### ***The Independent Panel on ICC Judicial Elections***

In order to enhance the nomination and election process, the Coalition has established a high-level expert panel to assess the candidates put forward by States Parties.

The Panel will help fill a significant gap in the elections process: the need for a competent, fair, independent assessment of whether each nominee fulfills the qualifications prescribed by the Rome Statute. As with the Coalition, the Panel will neither endorse nor oppose any individual candidate in the elections.

## **(2) 2011 Prosecutor Election**

The election of a new chief Prosecutor, also expected to occur in 2011, is a crucial decision by the ASP that will impact almost every aspect of the ICC for years to come.

The new Prosecutor will take responsibility for all ongoing and future investigations. This includes the cases currently before the ICC in relation to situations in Central African Republic, Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, and Uganda, as well as the numerous preliminary examinations undertaken in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. Two of the ICC's first trials may be completed prior to the election, but the appeals and reparations phases for these trials are expected to be ongoing after the election.

The current Prosecutor's term ends in June 2012. As with the Judges, ICC Prosecutors cannot be re-elected. The ASP is expected to elect a new Prosecutor for a six to nine-year term.

In part due to Coalition advocacy, the ASP Bureau has established a Search Committee for the Prosecutor of the ICC. The Search Committee will recommend a minimum of three suitable candidates to the Bureau for consideration. The Coalition strongly encourages state and non-state actors to work with and support the mandate of the Search Committee in its endeavors to seek out and identify candidates for this important post.

The Coalition will seek input from national, regional, and international member NGOs in an effort to identify the best candidates from their respective regions and to provide transparent and accurate information regarding the qualifications and professional background of candidates.

Furthermore, the Coalition will conduct a range of activities similar to the judicial elections actions described above, including sending questionnaires to candidates, conducting interviews, and arranging public seminars.

Through the aforementioned and other actions, the Coalition will seek to advance independent, transparent, fair, and merit-based elections.

*The Coalition for the International Criminal Court includes more than 2,500 civil society organizations in 150 countries working in partnership to strengthen international cooperation with the ICC; ensure that the ICC is fair, effective and independent; make justice both visible and universal; and advance stronger national laws that deliver justice to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.*

*The Coalition works in partnership with institutions and individuals around the globe in advancing its mission. Major support for the Coalition's Campaign on the ICC Elections has been provided by Humanity United, among other funders. The Coalition is deeply appreciative of all of the partners and donors that are providing crucial support to this campaign and to other ongoing efforts. More information on the Coalition's partners and campaign can be found at: [www.coalitionfortheicc.org](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org).*

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**Background on the ICC:** The ICC is composed of 18 judges representing all regions and principal legal systems of the world; eleven judges are women. Current judges are: Sang-Hyun Song (Republic of Korea), Fatoumata Dembele Diarra (Mali), Hans-Peter Kaul (Germany), Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica), Akua Kuenyehia (Ghana), Erkki Kourula (Finland), Anita Ušacka (Latvia), Sir Adrian Fulford (United Kingdom), Sylvia Steiner (Brazil), Ekaterina Trendafilova (Bulgaria), Daniel David Ntanda Nsereko (Uganda), Bruno Cotte (France), Joyce Aluoch (Kenya), Sanji Mmasenono Monogeng (Botswana), Christine van den Wyngaert (Belgium), Cuno Tarfusser (Italy), Silvia Alejandra Fernández de Gurmendi (Argentina), Kuniko Ozaki (Japan) and René Blattman (Bolivia). The ICC Prosecutor is Luis Moreno-Ocampo (Argentina), and the Deputy Prosecutor is Fatou Bensouda (Gambia).

The ICC is the world's first, permanent international court to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. There are currently 114 ICC States Parties. Central to the ICC's mandate is the principle of complementarity, which holds that the ICC will only intervene if national legal systems are unable or unwilling to investigate and prosecute. To date, the ICC has opened investigations in five situations: Central African Republic; Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Uganda. The ICC has publicly issued 12 arrest warrants and three summonses to appear. Three trials are ongoing. The Office of the Prosecutor has made public that it is examining at least ten situations on 4 continents, including Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, South Korea, Nigeria, and Palestine.