

12 May 2014

Your Excellency:

On behalf of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), a global network of over 2,500 non-governmental organizations in more than 150 countries advocating for a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court (ICC), I am writing to call your attention to the upcoming ICC judicial elections scheduled for December 2014.

As you are aware, the ICC is the first permanent international court capable of trying individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. With 122 States Parties, the ICC is an important mechanism to implement international standards of justice and to ensure that perpetrators will be brought to justice when national judicial systems are unable or unwilling to do so.

In December 2014, the Assembly of States Parties of the Rome Statute will elect six new judges. The Statute provides that judges are elected for nine year terms and cannot be re-elected.

As a non state party, your country may provisionally nominate a candidate for one of the six available judicial vacancies at the ICC. The nomination period will open on 28 April 2014; however, your nomination will only become effective if your instrument of ratification to the Rome Statute is deposited by 20 July 2014, the date the nomination period concludes.

Paragraph 7 of Assembly of States Parties (ASP) Resolution ICC-ASP/3/Res.6 of 2004 establishes:

*“States that have started the process of ratification, acceptance or approval of or accession to the Statute may nominate candidates for the elections of judges of the International Criminal Court. Such nominations shall remain provisional and shall not be included in the list of candidates unless the State concerned has deposited its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations **before the end of the nomination period** and provided that that State is a party to the Statute in accordance with article 126, paragraph 2, of the Statute on the date of the election”.*

Excellency, the Coalition as a whole does not endorse or oppose any individual candidates; however it is more important than ever that states nominate the most highly qualified candidates for this election. In order to deal with particularly complex legal proceedings and in order that the Court’s judicial processes can be as efficient as possible, it is particularly important that judicial candidates have experience in criminal courtroom proceedings and courtroom management. The only way the ICC can be recognized in the world community as a truly independent and effective international tribunal that ensures fairness in its procedures

and trials is if the ICC chambers are composed of judges who are impartial and highly qualified.

The Coalition encourages all states to nominate or support the nomination of candidates through a transparent and vigorous process, and to conduct broad consultation with the legal profession and institutions, with civil society, and others. The nomination process should take into consideration key progressive minimum voting requirements incorporated into the Rome Statute, including categories of expertise and the equitable representation of female and male judges. States Parties to the Rome Statute must give the greatest attention to the requirements established by Article 36 when considering nominations of judicial candidates.

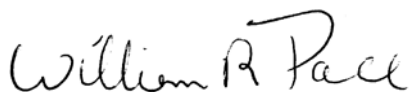
The Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties has provided information on the nomination procedure and general information on the elections at the following webpage: http://www.icccpi.int/en_menus/asp/elections/Pages/election2014.aspx. The Coalition will also be undertaking a number of actions related to the elections upon the opening of the judicial nomination period.

As the Court's first trials are coming to an end, and the Court moves into its second decade, the International Criminal Court and the Rome Statute system is moving into a new stage of development and scrutiny. Additional States Parties to the Court will directly translate into more geographically diverse and qualified nominations that will ensure that the ICC is made up of the most highly qualified professionals, enriched by the strength and diversity of the legal cultures represented in its bench.

Every ratification will ultimately make the ICC stronger, bolster the ICC's credibility and better equip the Court to fulfil its primary role of holding accountable those who commit genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The CICC remains at your disposal for any support and information you might wish to receive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William R. Pace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

William R. Pace
Convenor
Coalition for the International Criminal Court