

New York, 24 January 2011

Dear Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the *Coalition for the International Criminal Court*, a global network of over 2,500 member organizations in more than 150 countries advocating for a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court (ICC).

In December 2011, the State 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. Six judges elected in the ICC's first judicial election in 2003 will thus complete their terms this year

Excellency, as the first terms of office and the first trials are coming to an end, the International Criminal Court and the Rome Statute system is moving into a new stage of development and scrutiny. It is more important than ever that States Parties nominate the most highly qualified candidates for this election. The only way the ICC can be recognized in the world community as a truly independent and effective international tribunal that insures 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 Parties to nominate or support the nomination of candidates through a transparent and vigorous process, and to conduct broad consultation with civil society, the legal profession and others. States Parties to the Rome Statute must give the greatest attention to the requirements established by Article 36 when considering nominations of judicial candidates, In order to enhance the nomination and election process, the Coalition has established a panel of independent experts to assess the candidates put forward by States Parties: The Independent Panel on International Criminal Court Judicial Elections.

The purpose of the Panel is to provide a competent, fair and independent assessment of whether judicial nominees fulfill the qualifications prescribed by the Rome Statute. While the Coalition and the Panel are promoting the nomination of the most highly qualified candidates, neither the Coalition nor the Panel will endorse or oppose any individual candidate.

Excellency, the nomination period will open in June and the elections will be held at the Assembly meeting in December 2011. We are attaching the announcement of the Judicial Panel which includes relevant provisions of the Statute on judicial candidates and further information regarding the Panel itself.

With our highest regards,



**William R. Pace**  
Convenor