

# WOMEN'S INITIATIVES FOR GENDER JUSTICE

Anna Paulownastraat 103  
2518 BC The Hague  
the Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0)70 365 2042  
Fax: +31 (0)70 392 5270  
www.iccwomen.org  
info@iccwomen.org

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Press Release – Immediate Release

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## Three women elected today to the bench of the International Criminal Court

Today six judges were elected to the International Criminal Court during the resumed session of the 4<sup>th</sup> Assembly of States Parties.

‘Half of the six judges elected today are women, bringing the overall number of women on the bench of the ICC to 8 out of a total of 18 judges on the Court’ said Brigid Inder, Executive Director of the Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice.

‘This is unprecedented for international elections, particularly when you consider that of the 260 judges serving on international and regional judicial institutions, only 49 are women. Today’s result further implements the principle of fair representation of male and female judges as mandated by the Rome Statute of the ICC. It is another step in the right direction’ said Ms Inder

The election gives further geographical representation to eastern Europe which until this election only had one judge on the Court. However Asia/Pacific loses one judge and reduces their representation on the bench with the loss of the only judge from the Pacific on the ICC.

In each of the three situations (Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Darfur) currently under investigation by the ICC, gender based crimes are widespread and systematic. Gender competence amongst the judges, both male and female, is crucial if the ICC is to be a court of gender-inclusive justice for those most affected by armed conflict.

Those elected to the ICC:

TRENDAFILOVA, Ekaterina (Bulgaria) with 82 votes  
UŠACKA, Anita (Latvia) with 77 votes  
KOURULA, Erkki (Finland) with 73 votes  
KUENYEHIA, Akua (Ghana) with 72 votes  
SONG, Sang-hyun (Republic of Korea) with 70 votes  
KAUL, Hans-Peter (Germany) with 67 votes

For further comment:

Brigid Inder + 31 6203 87 184