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## **E-Reporter**



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## **Ongoing ICC Judicial Elections**

Six new judges will be elected to the International Criminal Court at the ongoing session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) of the ICC at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

So far the Assembly has elected two new judges, namely Akane Tomoko from Japan and Ibañez Carranza Luz del Carmen from Peru, both of whom were recommended by the ICC Advisory Committee on Nominations (ACN) established under the ICC Statute, to be particularly well qualified for the

positions. Therefore, we applaud their elections.





Luz del Carmen Ibañez Carranza from Peru & Tomoko Akane from Japan

Three additional leading candidates from Benin, Canada and Uganda are expected to be elected shortly. The candidates from Benin and Uganda have both been endorsed by the African Union, Africa's continental body, and the candidates from Canada and Uganda have similarly been recommended for election by the ACN.







Reine Adelaide Sophie Alapini-Gansou from Benin, Kimberly Prost from Canada & Solomy Balungi Bossa from Uganda.

The question then is: who will be the 6th candidate to be elected to complete the elections. The candidates from Uruguay, Ms. Peralta Distefano, and Croatia, Ms. Durdevic Zlata, have also been recommended for election by the ACN and as such States Parties to the ICC are expected to take note of this. The only male candidate, the candidate from Italy, Mr. Aitala Rosario, should not be discounted, however. He has direct relevant expertise having previously dealt with cases involving the maffia for example. Furthermore, Italian candidates have always done well in ICC judicial elections. The ICC is after all the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

AFLA is recognized for its contribution of African perspectives to International Criminal Justice. That African perspective also means an International Justice regime that is representative of the various regions of the world, inclusive and universal. Elections of the three leading candidates from Benin, Canada and Uganda would seem to meet this objective as would election of any of the two other candidates recommended by the ACN. This would bring the total number of African judges to 4. Not bad at all given that the current ICC Prosecutor is also from the African region.

In conclusion, may the best candidates win.

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