

PERSONAL STATEMENT

by Professor Marc BOSSUYT (Belgium),
Candidate for election to the post of judge
at the International Criminal Court

In its early stages, it will be essential for the International Criminal Court to establish its credibility, and to adopt forward-looking working methods.

Credibility

It will be crucial for the Court to establish its credibility from the beginning. The Prosecutor will play an essential role in selecting appropriate cases to come before the Court, while the Judges sitting in the Pre-Trial Chamber – and in the Appeals Chamber - should ensure that the selected cases are substantial and deserve investigation and prosecution by the Court. Interaction among Judges from various backgrounds is necessary in order to avoid one-sided approaches. My academic experience as well as my extensive practical experience in international humanitarian law and human rights law (especially in the field of racism, discrimination and refugee protection) and in national and international bodies dealing with both individual cases and consistent patterns of gross violations of human rights, will contribute to this objective.

Efficiency and flexibility

The Pre-trial and Appeals Chambers must establish appropriate procedures and working methods for cases. Early cases will have to be handled in a manner that can be maintained when later the Court will be confronted with an expanding case load. Sound management and functioning of the Court will require close cooperation between the Prosecutor and the Judges, assisted by the Registrar. In that regard, my administrative and judicial experience, in particular as former Commissioner General for Refugees and as a Judge at the Belgian Constitutional Court, is a valuable asset.