

STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 7
OF THE RESOLUTION ON THE PROCEDURE FOR THE NOMINATION AND
ELECTION OF JUDGES, THE PROSECUTOR AND DEPUTY PROSECUTORS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT – 1

Mr. Raymond Sock is currently the Solicitor General and Legal Secretary at the Attorney General's Chambers and Department of State for Justice and National Assembly matters. Mr. Sock was called to the English Bar as a Member of the Honorable Society of The Middle Temple twenty-four (24) years ago, in 1978; he has worked as a government lawyer (1978 – 1980); as the First Director of the AFRICAN center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, a regional NGO which he helped established, (1990 – 1995); as a private legal practitioner (1995 – 2000); and on contract as the Solicitor General and Legal Secretary from 2000 to date. Mr. Sock also took part in the preparatory workshops and meetings on the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court.

Mr. Sock is undoubtedly a very experienced senior lawyer with specialization in human rights and international humanitarian law and is known for his high moral standards, impartiality and integrity. Mr. Sock possesses the requisite qualifications and experience for appointment to the highest judicial office in The Gambia.

As a holder of a B.A. Honours degree in English Language and a post graduate certificate in Legislative Drafting, Mr. Sock's command of the English Language, one of the languages of the Court, is excellent.

Although Mr. Sock is qualified to appear on both lists A and B under paragraph 5 of article 36 of the Statute, his nomination is submitted for inclusion under list B.

The Republic of The Gambia is located on the North-West coast of Africa. Its legal system is based on the common law system inherited from England, including the principles of equity, and statute law promulgated since independence in 1965.

As stated earlier, Mr. Sock has legal expertise in human rights law and international humanitarian law, including specific issues such as violence against women and children. He is presently the supervisor of the Child Rights Unit, which was recently established in the Attorney General's Chambers with the cooperation of Unicef, and the on-going Unicef-sponsored projects for the establishment of a national commission on Children's Rights and the harmonization of the domestic laws with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In April 2001, he headed a Gambian delegation to Accra, Ghana, to observe and study the operation and activities of the Ghana National Commission for Women and Children under the auspices of Unicef.

Mr. Raymond Sock is a Gambian national and is nominated as such.