

DR. FATOU BENSOUDA

Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court

Dr. Fatou Bensouda is the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), having assumed office in 2012, the first woman to have assumed the role. In 2011, she was elected by consensus by the Assembly of States Parties to serve in this capacity. Dr. Bensouda was nominated and supported as the sole African candidate for election to the post by the African Union. Between 1987 and 2000, Dr. Bensouda was successively Senior State Counsel, Principal State Counsel, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Solicitor General and Legal Secretary of the Republic, and Attorney General and Minister of Justice, in which capacity she served as Chief Legal Advisor to the President and Cabinet of The Republic of The Gambia. Her international career as a non-government civil servant formally began at the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, where she worked as a Legal Adviser and Trial Attorney before rising to the position of Senior Legal Advisor and Head of the Legal Advisory Unit (2002 to 2004), after which she joined the ICC as the Court's first Deputy Prosecutor. Dr. Bensouda has also served as delegate of The Gambia to, *inter alia*, the meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the ICC.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the distinguished *ICJ International Jurists Award* (2009), presented by the then President of India P. D. Patil; the 2011 *World Peace Through Law Award* presented by the Whitney Harris World Law Institute, the American Society of International Law's *Honorary Membership Award* (2014), the *XXXV Peace Prize* by the United Nations Association of Spain (2015), and the *Praeis Elit Award* (2015). In addition to receiving several honorary doctorates, Dr. Bensouda has been listed by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world (2012); by the *New African* magazine as one of the "Most Influential Africans;" by *Foreign Policy* as one of the "Leading Global Thinkers" (2013), and by *Jeune Afrique* as one of 50 African women who, by their actions and initiatives in their respective roles, advance the African continent (2014 & 2015).