

**MR. XAVIER-JEAN KEÏTA**

*Former Principal Counsel for the Defence Office  
International Criminal Court*

Xavier-Jean Keïta joined the International Criminal Court in 2007 as Principal Counsel for the Defence Office (OPCD). He has practiced law for more than 38 years as a member of the Senegal Bar and with the Appeals Court of Paris. Mr. Keïta was a founding member of the International Criminal Bar and the CIFAF (Africa).

He has chaired in 1999/2000 the first lawyers' union of France (FNUJA), the Commission Admission of the French Bar National Council (CNB), and the International Human Rights Commission, together with SOS Avocats of International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA). He is also an active member of the International Conference of French-speaking Bar Associations (CIB). He is an international law expert (member of the French Institute of International Law Experts, IFEJI, Paris) and is a qualified Mediator.

Mr. Keïta was also a first-instance Judge at the Complaints Board of the *Organisation Internationale de La Francophonie*.

He has been appointed as Duty Counsel for *Germain Katanga and Narcisse Arido*, assisted in the first appearances for *Jean-Pierre Bemba, Laurent Gbagbo*, Charles Blé-Goudé and *Aimé Kilolo*, and was appointed as Counsel for Saif Al Islam Gaddafi for 18 months and was appointed Counsel for Mr. Yekatom. Mr. Keïta has participated in several conferences, presentations, and seminars worldwide (Africa, Asia, America and Europe) and has lectured for the Asser Institute, The Hague University, the New York Bar, Sciences Po Paris and Lille, the Paris Bar, and for *Afrique et Droit*. He has published articles with the International Bar Association, European Quarterly, the Institute for Security Studies, *Union Internationale des Avocats*, *Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats*, *La Gazette du Palais*, *Fédération Nationale des Unions de Jeunes Avocats*, *Infos*, *Les Annonces de la Seine*, and commented on Art 67 of the Rome Statute in *Commentaire du Statut de Rome* (July 2012 and October 2019) and Art 55 of the Rome Statute in *Comentários ao Estatuto de Roma* (October 2014).

Mr. Keïta was elected Member of the Executive Council of the International Criminal

Court Bar Association (ICCBA) and is the former Secretary.

Mr. Keïta received Medals and Awards from Val de Marne Bar (Paris Court of Appeal), from French National Bar Council (CNB) from International Criminal Court (ICC) and from the African Federation of Young Bar Associations (FA-UJA).

Mr. Keïta is fluent in French, English, Spanish, Bambara and Wolof. His French is native, and he also works in English.