

**Statement submitted in accordance with Article 36, paragraph 4 (a), of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and paragraph 7 of the resolution of the Assembly of States Parties relating to the procedure for the nomination and election of judges, the prosecutor and deputy prosecutors of the International Criminal Court**

**(a) Article 36, paragraph 3, subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c)**

*Dr. Kourula is a person of high moral character, impartiality and integrity whose education and qualifications (L.Lic from the University of Helsinki, Ph.D. in international law from the University of Oxford, term as a district judge) as well as his extensive experience in a legal profession would qualify him for appointment to the highest judicial offices in Finland (Article 36, paragraph 3 (a)).*

In accordance with section 11, subsection 1 of the Finnish Act on Judicial Appointments (Act No. 205/2000), members of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Administrative Court must be eminent legal experts fulfilling the following requirements. The candidate must be a righteous Finnish citizen who has earned a Master's degree in law at a Finnish university and who by his or her previous activities in courts of law or other functions has demonstrated the professional competence and the personal characteristics necessary for successful performance of the duties inherent in the position of a judge. Candidates may obtain the necessary qualifications in legal professions other than those constituting part of the judiciary. Such professions include positions of practising lawyers, prosecutors, research fellows and university lecturers, as well as of legal officers responsible for law-drafting. In addition, international duties and certain administrative and law enforcement duties may provide the necessary qualifications.

It may be added that, as Director General for Legal Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Kourula holds a public office for which section 125 of the Finnish Constitution requires skill, ability and irreproachable conduct.

*Dr. Kourula has established competence in relevant areas of international law, including international humanitarian law and the law of human rights, and the necessary relevant experience in a professional legal capacity which is of relevance to the judicial work of the Court, as required by the Statute (Article 36, paragraph 3 (b)).*

Dr. Kourula is a prominent international lawyer with outstanding experience and profound knowledge of international law. He has served the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs since 1985. He has been actively engaged in issues of public international law, including international humanitarian law and the law of human rights throughout his career in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA). Before his present post as Ambassador and Director General for Legal Affairs, he has served as Permanent Representative of Finland to the Council of Europe, Strasbourg (1998-2002), Deputy Director General for Legal Affairs (1995-1998), Minister Counsellor and Legal Adviser to the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations, New York (1991-1995), Director of the International Law Division of the MFA (1989-1991) and Counsellor and Legal Adviser of the MFA (1986-1989).

As Legal Adviser to the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN from 1991 to 1995, Dr. Kourula followed closely the developments that led to the establishment of the International criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia, in 1993, and for Rwanda, in 1994. He was later the head of a Finnish evaluation mission on the performance of the ICTR (Arusha, 1998) and member of a ministerial delegation to ICTY (Hague, 1997). During his time in New York, he also intensively participated in the process of the Security Council reform at the United Nations, in the capacity of the personal assistant to Ambassador Breitenstein who chaired the working group. Dr. Kourula was actively involved in the negotiations on the Rome Statute from 1995 to 1998 as head of the Finnish delegation to the Preparatory Committee and to the UN Diplomatic Conference in Rome. He has also held several international positions of trust related to the ICC negotiations (member of the enlarged bureau and coordinator for jurisdictional issues, participant and chair of a working group in informal consultations for the establishment of the ICC in Syracuse 1995 and 1996 as well as in Zutphen in 1998).

As Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe, Ambassador Kourula has gained profound knowledge and experience of the activities of the organisation in the fields of protection of human rights and the rule of law, including the work of the European Court of Human Rights. He was appointed the Chair of the Rapporteur Groups on Human Rights and National Minorities of the Council of Europe in 2000 and served in this function until 2002. He was the Rapporteur on the relations of the Council of Europe to the United Nations from 1999 to 2002.

As Director General for Legal Affairs, Dr. Kourula has the principal responsibility for advising the Government on any issues of international law, including international humanitarian law and the law of human rights. He is the agent of the Government of Finland both in cases brought against Finland before the European Court of Human Rights and in cases before the European Court of Justice. His responsibilities also include the chairmanship of the Finnish National Committee on International Humanitarian Law.

Dr. Kourula has participated in numerous international conferences, symposia and seminars on international law, especially on the law of international organizations and human rights as well as humanitarian and criminal law. Before joining the Ministry for Affairs in 1985, Dr. Kourula pursued an academic career in international law and wrote his doctoral thesis on the identification and characteristics of regional arrangements for the purpose of the United Nations Charter. He has contributed to publications and articles on the activities of the United Nations and its bodies, in particular pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security, collective security systems, peacekeeping, and civil crisis management, as well as certain key issues relating to the implementation of the Statute of the International Criminal Court

*Dr. Kourula fulfils the language requirements in respect of both working languages of the Court, English and French. Of the other official languages of the Court, he is able to use Russian and understand Spanish (Article 36, paragraph 3 (c)).*

**(b) Article 36, paragraph 5**

*Dr. Kourula is being nominated for inclusion on list B for the purposes of Article 36, paragraph 5, of the Rome Statute.*

**(c) Article 36, paragraph 8, subparagraphs (a)(i) to (a)(iii)**

*(i) Dr. Kourula is qualified for appointment to the highest judicial offices in Finland, which has a statutory law (civil law) system largely influenced by the Nordic and Central European legal traditions.*

*(ii) Dr. Kourula is a national of Finland which is a member of the Western European and Others Group of States.*

*(iii) Gender: male.*