



Cour  
Pénale  
Internationale  

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International  
Criminal  
Court

Le Président  
The President

*Ceremony for the Solemn Undertaking  
Courtroom I, International Criminal Court*

*13 July 2015*

*Judge Silvia Fernandez de Gurmendi  
President of the International Criminal Court*

*Check against delivery*

*[Court Officer: "All rise, veuillez vous lever"]*

*[Judges enter]*

*[Presidency bows; everyone else bows]*

- **Please be seated**

*[Everyone sits]*

- **Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,**
- **We have gathered today to witness the solemn undertaking of a new judge of the International Criminal Court, Dr. Raul Pangalangan of the Philippines.**
- **It is a great pleasure for me to preside over this proceeding, which will bring the number of judges at the ICC to the full number of eighteen foreseen by the Rome Statute.**
- **Dr. Pangalangan was elected by the Assembly of States Parties to fill a judicial vacancy left by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, who was elected for a 9-year term beginning 11 March 2012, but was not able to take up her post for medical reasons and resigned last year. Let me take this opportunity to express the Court's best wishes to Senator Santiago.**

- **Excellencies,**
- **We are assembled today in the ICC's main courtroom because the Rome Statute requires the judges to make their solemn undertakings in open court.**
- **The courtroom, as a controlled and structured environment where our proceedings take place, symbolises how the Court operates within a clearly defined legal framework, which determines our mandate and guides the actions of judges as well as the actions of all those who participate or are involved in any way in our proceedings.**
- **I invite you to join me in extending a warm welcome to Dr. Raul Pangalangan, who in a few moments will be formally sworn in as the newest judge of the International Criminal Court.**
- **I have no doubt that Dr. Pangalangan will make an important contribution to the work of this Court. He is a widely respected expert in international law, having studied at the Harvard Law School, and the University of the Philippines, where he has served as a Professor of Law for more than 30 years, while also lecturing at many other institutions in several countries, including the Hague Academy of International Law.**

- **Dr. Pangalangan's long history of involvement with the ICC demonstrates his commitment to international criminal justice. In 1998, he was a Philippine Delegate to the Rome Conference, and he subsequently co-chaired for more than a decade the Philippine Coalition for the ICC. The Coalition played an important role in the process that ultimately led to the country's ratification of the Rome Statute. He has published and lectured on international criminal law as well as international humanitarian law.**
- **Je me réjouis qu'avec l'élection du Dr. Pangalangan, le nombre de juges provenant de la région Asie-Pacifique atteint trois, contribuant ainsi à la diversité et à l'équilibre géographique de la Cour.**
- **Je note également que le Dr. Pangalangan sera le premier juge de la CPI venant d'un pays de l'Asie du Sud-Est, une sous-région qui reste mal-représentée parmi les États Parties au Statut de Rome. J'espère que ce développement encouragera plus d'États de l'Asie du Sud-Est à joindre la CPI, et à devenir membres d'un système global visant à sanctionner et aider à prévenir les crimes les plus graves qui touchent l'humanité dans son ensemble.**

- **Excellences,**
- **Conformément à l'article 45 du Statut de Rome de la Cour, avant d'entrer en fonctions, les juges doivent, en audience publique, prendre un engagement solennel d'exercer leurs fonctions en toute impartialité et en toute conscience.**
- **L'engagement solennel pris par les juges reflète la nature onéreuse des responsabilités des juges, qui nécessite un engagement personnel particulièrement fort.**
- **Le Président de l'Assemblée des Etats Parties actera comme témoin lors de la cérémonie d'engagement solennel. Avant qu'il ne le fasse, je l'invite à adresser l'audience.**

*[Speech by the President of the Assembly]*

- **Je remercie le Président Kaba pour son discours, ainsi que l'Assemblée des Etats Parties pour son profond soutien à la Cour. Maintenant, j'invite le Juge Pangalangan à prendre son engagement solennel.**

*[President of the Assembly oversees the undertaking.]*

*[The judge walks to the President of ASP, takes the oath, goes to the Registrar to sign and then returns to his seat.]*

*[President of the Assembly returns to his seat.]*

- **L'engagement solennel du Juge Pangalangan a été conclu en accord avec l'article 45 du Statut.**
- **I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Judge Raul Pangalangan to the new function he has just assumed, and to wish him a successful tenure at the Court. I would also like to thank his wife for joining us here for this important occasion. And I would like to thank everyone else who has been present to witness today's ceremony.**
- **The session is hereby concluded.**

*[As Presidency stands, Court Officer: "All rise, veuillez vous lever"]*

*[Judges exit]*