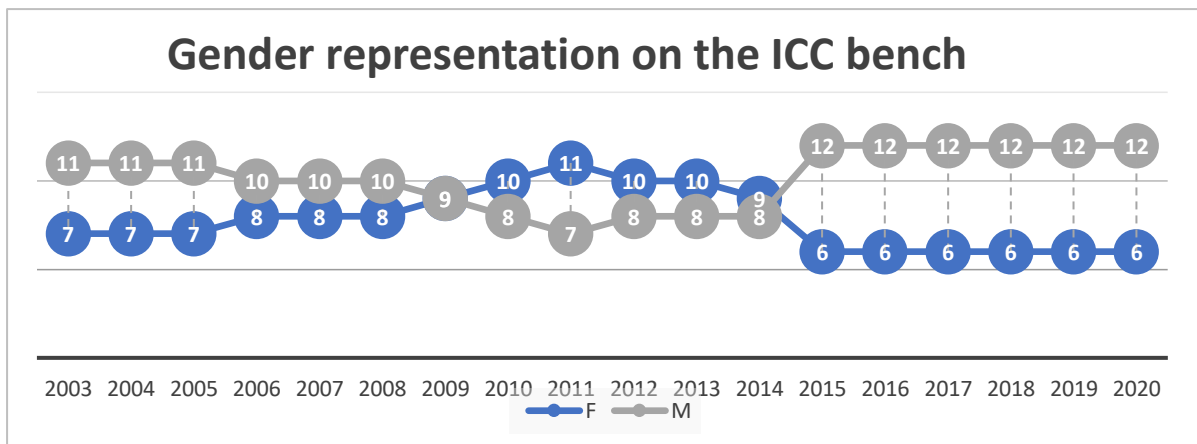


The **Coalition for the ICC (CICC) Elections Team**, consisting of members from civil society organizations committed to strengthening the Rome Statute system in the face of impunity, calls on ICC States Parties to consider the severe imbalance in gender representation on the ICC bench when casting their votes for six new judges during this nineteenth session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP).

The representation of women in leadership positions at the ICC remains at an all-time low¹. Given its front facing role as a key institution in international criminal justice and the promotion of accountability, it is critical that the ICC bench embodies high standards of gender representation in all areas of its work.

Amongst the criteria listed in the Rome Statute for the election of ICC judges is the principle of fair representation of women and men. Nonetheless, 2020 marks the sixth consecutive year in which female judges are under-represented at the ICC, with twice as many male judges as female judges.



We take note of the ASP rules on minimum voting requirements making voting for at least one (1) female candidate mandatory during this election². Electing one female candidate would bring the total number of female judges to six out of a total of 18 judges and continue the current severe imbalance of gender representation on the ICC bench.

We submit that States should go considerably beyond the bare minimum required by the rules and seek to ensure greater female representation. Parity is not only a matter of principle, but it also ensures that ICC proceedings can benefit from the diverse perspectives that men and women respectively can bring to the administration of justice.

The Coalition as a whole does not endorse or oppose individual candidates. Rather, it advocates for the election of only the most highly qualified candidates with high-moral character, and for the integrity of the nomination and election procedures. In that sense, we urge States to cast their votes based on merit. We note that the [Advisory Committee on Nominations](#) considered no fewer than seven female candidates to be highly qualified for appointment as ICC judge.

For further information please consult the [Coalition for the ICC Factsheet on the ICC Judicial Elections](#).

¹ Currently, only six of 18 judges are women, and only one of the five key leadership positions at the Court—President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Prosecutor, and Registrar—is held by a woman, the Prosecutor. The 2020 ASP Draft Bureau Report of the Bureau on equitable geographical representation and gender balance in the recruitment of staff of the International Criminal Court notes the severe under-representation of female staff in positions P-5 and above.

² Resolution ICC-ASP/3/Res.6, para. 20(c)