

Statement in Support of the Nomination of Mr. Abubacarr M. Tambadou as Judge at the International Court of Justice (2027-2036)



The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of The Gambia proudly lends its voice and full support to the nomination of Mr. Abubacarr M. Tambadou by the Republic of The Gambia for election as Judge at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for the term 2027-2036. Mr. Tambadou's distinguished career in law, justice, and human rights advocacy makes him an exceptional candidate whose expertise, experience and integrity will greatly contribute to the work of the ICJ in upholding international justice and the rule of law.

Mr. Tambadou's legal career spans over two decades, with extensive experience in both national and international legal systems

As Attorney General and Minister of Justice of The Gambia from 2017 to 2020, Mr. Tambadou exhibited remarkable leadership in guiding the country through its post-authoritarian transitional justice process. He played a pivotal role in establishing key institutions, including the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC), the Janneh Commission, the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC), and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Notably, he was instrumental in ensuring that the NHRC's founding legislation fully aligned with the UN Paris Principles, granting it an independent and broad

mandate to promote and protect fundamental human rights with quasi-judicial powers. These initiatives, which he spearheaded, underscore his deep commitment to justice, transparency, and human rights protection. Under his leadership, The Gambia made significant strides in addressing past human rights violations, ensuring accountability, and strengthening the rule of law.

At the international level, Mr. Tambaou has significantly influenced the global human rights and justice landscape. He is widely recognized for his pivotal role in holding Myanmar accountable for genocide against the Rohingya people. As Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on Accountability for Human Rights Violations Against the Rohingya in 2019, he successfully encouraged the Government of The Gambia to file a lawsuit at the ICJ in 2019 against Myanmar under the 1948 Genocide Convention. This historic case brought global attention to the plight of the Rohingya and reaffirmed the role of international justice in addressing gross human rights violations.

In his current role as Registrar of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT), Mr. Tambaou is the highest authority in the Registry, overseeing legal, administrative, policy, and diplomatic matters of the institution. His extensive experience as an international prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) between 2003 and 2017 further underscores his deep expertise in international criminal law. His contributions to landmark cases at the ICTR, including the prosecution of key figures responsible for the 1994 Rwandan genocide, have played a crucial role in shaping international jurisprudence on genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

Mr. Tambaou's lifelong commitment to justice, accountability, and human rights is evident in his outstanding work at both national and international levels. His tireless efforts to strengthen the rule of law and ensure justice for victims of grave human rights violations have earned him global recognition, including being named among Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People in 2020 and a Nobel Peace Prize nomination in 2021.

The NHRC firmly believes that Mr. Tambaou's exceptional legal acumen, deep commitment to justice, and extensive experience in international law make him an exceptionally ideal candidate for the ICJ. His presence on the Bench will not only enhance the Court's standing, credibility and ability to address critical issues of international law but also reinforce The Gambia's legacy as a champion of human rights and justice on the global stage.

Accordingly, the NHRC strongly endorses the nomination of Mr. Abubacarr M. Tambaou and urges all Member States to support his candidacy for election as Judge at the International Court of Justice for the term 2027-2036.