



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

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6 February 2025

Dear Emily,

I am writing to inform you that the United Kingdom National Group has selected Professor Dapo Akande as the UK candidate for the regular International Court of Justice ('ICJ') election in 2026.¹

Professor Akande is a member of the International Law Commission, the Chichele Professor of Public International Law and Fellow at All Souls College Oxford. He is a highly regarded and eminent legal scholar with an interest and expertise across the full breadth of international legal issues and experience in both common law and civil law jurisdictions.

As an experienced and independent practitioner, Professor Akande has acted as counsel, adviser or expert in several high-profile cases before a range of international courts and tribunals, including the ICJ. He has acted both for and against UK positions and advised governments from States in each of the five United Nations' regional groups, as well as international organisations, including the UN and the African Union, demonstrating the independence with which he would approach the Bench.

I believe that Professor Akande is an outstanding candidate who would make a formidable judge on the ICJ. As such, I am delighted to lend Government support to his candidature, which has been warmly welcomed and supported by many at home, including the Prime Minister, Attorney General and Lord Chancellor, and abroad. Professor Akande's nomination reflects the UK's firm commitment to international justice, human rights and the international rule of law.

As we look forward to a long campaign, we are conscious of the experience of the 2017 ICJ election, and the report issued by the Committee at that time.² I can confirm that the election campaign is overseen by a Senior Oversight Board chaired by Sally Langrish,

¹ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6717c1b8d94d2c219a540598/UK-Election-brochure-International-Court-of-Justice-Dapo-Akande.pdf>

² https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmfaff/860/86004.htm#_idTextAnchor011

FCDO's Legal Director General and will be supported by the FCDO's global network. As part of the campaign, Professor Akande is undertaking extensive travel, engaging with key legal professionals and decision-makers worldwide. My officials are working with the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Justice to ensure a coordinated campaign across HMG and plan to engage parliamentarians and members of the legal community in due course in support of the campaign. We would be very happy to brief you or your Committee members informally if you would find that helpful.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Collins', written in a cursive style.

Lord Collins of Highbury
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and
Development Affairs