

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Brazilian Group in the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) addressed a letter to His Excellency Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on 1 August 2022 conveying the nomination of two Brazilian jurists in a position to accept the duties of Judge at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), in order to complete the term of office of the late Judge A. A. Cançado Trindade, which expires in February 2027. His passing is much regretted both in Brazil and abroad.

The nomination letter by the Brazilian Group placed my name first, with my enclosed curriculum vitae and list of publications. However, the Brazilian Government has chosen to work only on the promotion of the second named candidate.

It is relevant that my name was placed first in the nomination by the Brazilian Group in the PCA, and that nomination was accordingly delivered to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Thus, there are two Brazilian candidates for election, but only the second is openly supported by the present Government of Brazil, for reasons of ideological alignment and shared political views with the J. M. Bolsonaro administration.

Obviously, a Judge at the International Court of Justice, while a national and citizen of his or her country of origin, should be independent at all times, in order to be in a position to properly fulfil the duties of a member of the supreme judicial organ of the United Nations. This is the reason for the procedure adopted by the ICJ, with candidates nominated by the national groups in the PCA, and not at the discretion of national governments and their political caprices.

Therefore, it is my duty to state that I am and remain a candidate for the vacancy to be filled at the ICJ, in the vote scheduled to take place in both the Security Council and the General Assembly later this year. I stress my commitment to international law and to the role of international institutions such as the ICJ, in the peaceful settlement of international disputes and also in providing legal opinions on matters submitted to the Court.

Allow me to present the attached copy of the nomination letter, with my enclosed curriculum vitae and list of publications, with my warmest compliments.

Yours faithfully,

Paulo Borba Casella  
Full Professor of Public International Law  
University of Sao Paulo Law School