



62nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
25 June 2026

**Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers
ITEM 3**

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute and the International Commission of Jurists, concurs with your report, Madam Special Rapporteur.

This Council has a critical role to promote independent and impartial judicial systems, capable of upholding the rule of law.

Transparent and merit-based judicial selection processes constitute essential safeguards against political interference and undue influence and are fundamental to maintaining public confidence in justice institutions. Establishing or strengthening such appointment procedures in many countries remains essential to safeguarding judicial independence, ensuring accountability and reinforcing the rule of law.

The concerns highlighted in the report are particularly relevant in Guatemala, in the wake of the 2026 judicial selection processes. Judicial appointments in Guatemala have long been marred by undue political influence and lack of both transparency and objective criteria. The recent institutional renewal is an important opportunity to reinforce impartiality, independence and credibility of the Public Prosecutor's Office and restore confidence in justice institutions.

The report's contents should be taken into account in judicial election process for the International Criminal Court. States Parties should ensure that nominations and elections are conducted in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, objectivity and impartiality. The selection of highly qualified candidates with demonstrated expertise, independence and ethical standing is essential to preserving the legitimacy, effectiveness and credibility of the Court.

This statement was delivered by:

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