



## **BIOGRAPHIES – PLENARY SESSION 1**

### **Plenary Session 1: National approaches to balancing the three main pillars of an independent criminal justice system – challenges and responses**

#### **CHAIR:**

#### **Catherine Pierse, Director of Public Prosecutions, Ireland**

Catherine Pierse was appointed as the Irish Director of Public Prosecutions on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021. She has over 20 years' experience as a practicing solicitor in a range of criminal law and regulatory roles, including as Legal Advisor to police oversight bodies and as Senior Enforcement lawyer in the Irish Central Bank. Prior to that she was a criminal defence lawyer.

#### **SPEAKERS:**

#### **Renson Mulele Ingonga, OGW, Director of Public Prosecutions, Kenya**

Mr. Renson Mulele Ingonga, OGW, was appointed as the Director of Public Prosecutions on 20th September, 2023. He is the President of the Africa Prosecutors Association and the Eastern Africa Association of Prosecutors.

He was born in Kakamega County and graduated with a Law Degree from Moi University, Kenya in 2003 and proceeded for his Postgraduate Diploma at the Kenya School of Law where upon successful completion he was admitted to the Roll of Advocates in Kenya in 2005. Thereafter he earned his Master's in Law (LLM) from the University of Nairobi, Kenya in 2018.

He is an accomplished legal professional with a wealth of experience spanning more than two decades in both private and public sectors. He began his career in the public service when he joined the Ministry of lands in May 2006 as a Registrar of Titles, where he supervised the registration of land

transactions, reviewed and verified land ownership claims. Due to diligence and dedication, he has risen through the ranks and as at time of his exit, he was a Chief Land Registration Officer. On the 12th December 2022, he was bestowed with the State Honors of the Order of the Grand Warrior by his Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya.

He joined the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in the year 2014 as a Senior Principal Prosecution Counsel. He has prosecuted high profile and public interest cases on corruption, drug trafficking and terrorism. He has represented the Office in various forums and conferences on small arms and light weapons. Hard work, commitment to justice and rule of law saw him promoted to various ranks and prior to his appointment, he was a Senior Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions & Regional Coordinator, North Eastern, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, Garissa.

Mr. Ingonga is a passionate advocate for justice and human rights. He is a visionary leader who is dedicated to community service, a commitment that anchors him in his devotion to serving the society and humanity.

Mr. Ingonga's vision is to have a People-Centered Prosecution Service that will focus on Kenyans thereby fostering transparency and cooperation between the ODPP, members of the public and other criminal justice stakeholders.

## **Tong Jianming, First Deputy Prosecutor General, Supreme People's Procuratorate, People's Republic of China**

Tong Jianming, male, born in June, 1963.

In 1986, Mr. Tong graduated from the Law Department, Renmin University of China, majoring in the criminal law, with master's degree in law.

From 1986 to 2012, working in the Supreme People's Procuratorate of the P.R. China;

From 2012 to 2017, the Chief Prosecutor of Hebei Province, P.R. China;

From June, 2018 to May, 2020, the Deputy Prosecutor General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of the P.R.China;

From May, 2020 till now, the First Deputy Prosecutor General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of the P.R.China.

## **Yvonne Obuobisa, Director of Public Prosecutions, Ghana**

Yvonne Atakora Obuobisa has been the Director of Public Prosecutions of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice, since April 2015.

The DPP leads and supervises the prosecution of all criminal cases by attorneys in line with the constitutional mandate of the Attorney-General to initiate and conduct the prosecution of all criminal offences. Attorneys in the regional offices report directly to her on criminal cases through their Regional Heads.

A lawyer of twenty-eight years standing at the bar, she has vast experience in criminal law and procedure and international criminal law practice.

Prior to assuming the position of Director of Public Prosecutions in April 2015, she served as the Head of the International Cooperation Unit of the Ministry of Justice from January 2010 to April 2015 where she had oversight responsibility over all international cooperation matters including Mutual Legal Assistance, Extradition and Prisoner Transfer matters on behalf of the State.

Yvonne has prosecuted several high profile cases including landmark cases on corruption and white collar crimes. She has spoken at various fora across the globe on transnational organised crime and its peculiar challenges to developing countries and the response of the criminal justice sector to these crimes.

She served as a Government Expert for UNCAC in 2016 on the team of experts that assessed the Central African Republic as well as an Assessor and expert for the Intergovernmental Agency against Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (GIABA). In 2010, she was the government's expert on the team of Assessors that reviewed the Republic of Liberia's compliance to the FATF recommendations. She also serves on the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) of the Council of Europe for the effective use and implementation of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.

She represents the Attorney-General on several Boards and Governing Councils and is also a part-time lecturer at the Ghana School of Law.

## **Muhsin Şentürk, General Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of Appeal, Republic of Türkiye**

Mr. Şentürk graduated from Ankara University Faculty of Law in 1990, He have started his career as an Ankara judge candidate and he served as Public Prosecutor in provincial and district court houses. He have also served, Supreme Court of Appeal Examining Judge and Supreme Court of Appeal Public Prosecutor, respectively.

Muhsin Şentürk, was elected as a Member of the Supreme Court of Appeal on 19.10.2012, while he was serving as a Member of the Sixteenth Criminal Chamber of this Court, he was elected as the President of the Third Criminal Chamber by the Grand General Assembly of the Supreme Court of Appeal on 19.01.2021.

On 04.06.2024, Mr. Şentürk was elected by the President as the General Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of Appeal from among five candidates and he still continues this duty.

## **Sabin Ouellet, former Chief Prosecutor, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Quebec, Canada, and IAP Senator**

Prosecutor in Quebec (Canada) for more than 30 years, including nearly 20 years as a manager and chief prosecutor, he has been the co-founder and president of the French language International Association of Prosecutors (AIPPF) from 2009 to 2018. He is a member of the Senate of the International Association of prosecutors (IAP), after sitting on the executive committee for 10 years. Lecturer at University (École Nationale d'administration publique), trainer and speaker invited on the international scene, he deals with subjects that affect the organization of work in the field of justice as recent developments in transnational criminal law, the Rule of law, and building capacities. He is the author of the Guidelines for prosecutors for crimes against journalists published by the UNESCO and translated in more than 20 languages. He holds a Master degree in Public administration and he is a PhD Law candidate at Laval University.