



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Mission and has the honor to refer to the provisions of articles 28 to 34 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, relating to the election of the members of the Human Rights Committee, the text of which is reproduced in annex I attached.

The **thirty-eighth meeting** of States parties is scheduled to convene at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on **Monday, 15 June 2020, in Conference Building, Room 3, from 10 am.**

Two elections will take place during the thirty-eighth meeting of States parties:

1. Regular Election: to elect nine members of the Human Rights Committee, to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2020 (see annex II)
2. By-Election: to elect one member to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris on 31 December 2019.

Ms. Brands Kehris had been elected at the thirty-fifth meeting of States Parties of the Covenant held on 23 June 2016 for a term that was due to expire on 31 December 2020. In a letter dated 13 December 2019, the Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee notified the Secretary-General of her resignation, effective 31 December 2019. In accordance with article 33, paragraph 2, and article 34, paragraph 1 of the Covenant, the Secretary-General hereby declares this seat vacant. In accordance with article 34, paragraph 3 of the Covenant, "a member of the Committee elected to fill a vacancy declared in accordance with article 33, shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the member who vacated the seat on the Committee under the provisions of that article". For this vacancy, that means until 31 December 2020.

The Secretary-General, in accordance with article 30, paragraph 2, of the Covenant, has the honor to invite States parties to submit nomination(s) for membership of the Committee together with biographical information concerning the candidate drafted in accordance with the outline contained in annex III.



The nomination(s) should be sent through the Permanent Mission, electronically (Word format only), to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org), copied to [ghabtom@ohchr.org](mailto:ghabtom@ohchr.org), by 30 March 2020. States parties should clearly mark for which election they are nominating their candidate i.e. the Regular Election, the By-Election or both. Candidates for the by-election should be aware that the 129th session of the Committee will take place from 29 June to 24 July 2020, and their availability for this session would be appreciated.

States parties should take account of the relevant provisions of articles 28, 29, 31 and 34 of the Covenant (see annex 1). The Secretary General would like to draw attention to article 28, paragraph 2, of the Covenant, according to which the Committee shall be composed of nationals of States parties “who shall be persons of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights, consideration being given to the usefulness of the participation of some persons having legal experience”. Also note that, according to article 28, paragraph 3, the “members of the Committee shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity”.

In accordance with article 31, paragraph 2 of the Covenant, “consideration shall be given, in the election of the Committee, to equitable geographical distribution of membership and to the representation of the different forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems.”

In addition the Secretary-General would also like to draw attention to General Assembly resolution 68/268, paragraph 13, adopted on 9 April 2014 entitled “Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system” which “encourages States parties in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration...[to] balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities in the membership ...”. States parties will recall that the current composition of the Committee includes six women and twelve men.

After the deadline for the submission of nominations (**30 March 2020**), the Secretary-General, in accordance with articles 30, paragraph 3, and 34, paragraph 2, of the Covenant, shall prepare two lists of the persons nominated for each election (Regular and By-Election) and shall submit the lists to all States parties.

Information on elections relating to the Human Rights Committee may be found on the following link:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/Elections38.aspx>

20 December 2019