



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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REFERENCE: CESCR/MAB/cr

**Subject: Election of members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the seats becoming vacant on 31 December 2016**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has the honour to refer to Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985, which is reproduced in Annex I, in particular to paragraphs (b) and (c) relating to the procedure for the election of members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights.

In conformity with the established procedure, one half of the membership of the Committee shall be renewed every second year, bearing in mind the need to maintain equitable geographical distribution. Accordingly, the terms of office of nine members of the Committee elected by the Economic and Social Council in 2012, whose names appear in Annex II, will expire on 31 December 2016. The Economic and Social Council is tentatively scheduled to hold an election for those seats in April 2016 at United Nations headquarters in New York. A list of the other nine members of the Committee who will continue to serve on the Committee until 31 December 2018 is contained in Annex III.

In accordance with resolution 1985/17, the total number of seats allocated to the group of state parties belonging to the Western Europe and other Groups is three. In addition, the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2010/201 B of 28 April 2010, decided that, on an exceptional basis, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States would be allocated the third rotating seat on the Committee for the four-year term beginning on 1 January 2011 and that the Group of Western European and other States would be allocated the same seat for the four-year term beginning on 1 January 2015, and that such arrangement would not be affected by the number of ratifications to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights received by any regional group during that eight-year period.

Of the current members of the Committee from the Group of Western European and other States, the term of two seats will expire on 31 December 2016 and the term of two seats will expire on 31 December 2018. Therefore, in light of ECOSOC decision 2010/201 B, the Group of Western European and other States would have two seats that would need to be filled for the term beginning on 1 January 2017.

Paragraph (b) of the resolution provides that the members of the Committee shall be experts with recognized competence in the field of human rights, serving in their personal capacity, due consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of different forms of social and legal systems. Information on the requirements, responsibilities and entitlements relating to Treaty Body Membership can be found in Annex IV.

The Secretary-General, therefore, in accordance with subparagraph (c) (vi) of Council resolution 1985/17, has the honour to invite Your Excellency's Government to submit a nomination for membership of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights, together with relevant biographical information concerning its candidate, prepared in accordance with the enclosed candidacy form (Annex V). Nominations should be sent to the Secretary-General, c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, in electronic form (Word) ([cescr@ohchr.org](mailto:cescr@ohchr.org)) and in hard copy by **9 December 2015 at the latest**.

9 September 2015

## Annex I

### **Review of the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of The Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

#### **Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976, by which it noted the important responsibilities placed upon the Economic and Social Council by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in particular those resulting from articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant, and expressed its readiness to fulfill those responsibilities,

Recalling its decision 1978/10 of 3 May 1978, by which it decided to establish a Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, for the purpose of assisting the Council in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX), and determined the composition of the Working Group,

Recalling also its resolution 1979/43 of 11 May 1979, by which it approved the methods of work of the Working Group, and its decision 1981/158 of 8 May 1981, by which it incorporated certain changes in, and modified the methods of work of, the Working Group,

Recalling further its resolution 1982/33 of 6 May 1982, by which it modified the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts and decided to review the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Group at its first regular session of 1985,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other bodies established in accordance with existing international instruments in the field of human rights,

Having considered the report of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Decides that:

(a) The Working Group established by Economic and Social Council decision 1978/10 and modified by Council decision 1981/158 and resolution 1982/33 shall be renamed "Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee");

(b) The Committee shall have eighteen members who shall be experts with recognized competence in the field of human rights, serving in their personal capacity, due consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of different forms of social and legal systems; to this end, fifteen seats will be equally distributed among the regional groups, while the additional three seats will be allocated in accordance with the increase in the total number of States parties per regional group;

(c) The members of the Committee shall be elected by the Council by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights under the following conditions:

(i) The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years and shall be eligible for re-election at the end of their term, if renominated;

(ii) One half of the membership of the Committee shall be renewed every second year, bearing in mind the need to maintain the equitable geographical distribution mentioned in subparagraph (b) above;

(iii) The first elections shall take place during the first regular session of 1986 of the Council; immediately after the first elections, the President of the Council shall choose by lot the names of nine members whose term shall expire at the end of two years;

(iv) The terms of office of members elected to the Committee shall begin on 1 January following their election and expire on 31 December following the election of members that are to succeed them as members of the Committee;

(v) Subsequent elections shall take place every second year during the first regular session of the Council;

(vi) At least four months before the date of each election to the Committee the Secretary-General shall address a written invitation to the States parties to the Covenant to submit their nominations for membership of the Committee within three months; the Secretary-General shall prepare a list of the persons thus nominated, with an indication of the States parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the Council no later than one month before the date of each election;

(d) The Committee shall meet annually for a period of up to three weeks, taking into account the number of reports to be examined by the Committee, with the venue alternating between Geneva and New York;

(e) The members of the Committee shall receive travel and subsistence expenses from United Nations resources;

(f) The Committee shall submit to the Council a report on its activities, including a summary of its consideration of the reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant, and shall make suggestions and recommendations of a general nature on the basis of its consideration of those reports and of the reports submitted by the specialized agencies, in order to assist the Council to fulfil, in particular, its responsibilities under articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant;

(g) The Secretary-General shall provide the Committee with summary records of its proceedings, which shall be made available to the Council at the same time as the report of the Committee; the Secretary-General shall further provide the Committee with the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of its functions, bearing in mind the need to give adequate publicity to its work;

(h) The procedures and methods of work established by Council resolution 1979/43 and the other resolutions and decisions referred to in the preamble to the present resolution shall remain in force in so far as they are not superseded or modified by the present resolution;

(i) The Council shall review the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Committee at its first regular session of 1990, and subsequently every five years, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution of its membership.

28 May 1985

22nd plenary meeting

## Annex II

List of the nine members of the Committee, whose mandates will expire on  
31 December 2016

Mr. Mohamed Ezzeldin ABDEL-MONEIM (Egypt)

Mr. Shiqiu CHEN (China)

Mr. Zdzislaw KEDZIA (Poland)

Mr. Mikel MANCISIDOR DE LA FUENTE (Spain)

Mr. Sergei MARTYNOV (Belarus)

Mr. Ariranga Govindasamy PILLAY (Mauritius)

Ms. Lydia RAVENBERG (Suriname)

Mr. Waleed SADI (Jordan)

Mr. Nicolaas Jan SCHRIJVER (Netherlands)

Annex III

List of the nine members of the Committee, whose mandates will expire on  
31 December 2018

Mr. Aslan ABASHIDZE (Russian Federation)

Mr. Clement ATANGANA (Cameroon)


Ms. Maria-Virginia BRAS GOMES (Portugal)

Mr. Chandrashekhar DASGUPTA (India)

Mr. Olivier DE SCHUTTER (Belgium)

Mr. Azzouz KERDOUN (Algeria)

Mr. Renato Zerbini RIBEIRO LEÃO (Brazil)

Ms. Heisoo SHIN (Republic of Korea) 

Mr. Rodrigo UPRIMNY (Colombia) 

## Annex IV

### Requirements, responsibilities and entitlements relating to Treaty Body Membership

The General Assembly, in resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the treaty body system, adopted in April 2014, encourages States parties to give due consideration, during the election of treaty body members to equitable geographical distribution, representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the treaty bodies (paragraph 13).

The present paper was prepared to help potential candidates for membership in the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to understand the implications of being a member in regard to the time and other commitments that, if elected, they would be expected to uphold. Any questions on the contents may be directed to the Secretariat of the Committee at [cescr@ohchr.org](mailto:cescr@ohchr.org).

#### 1. Committee-specific information

##### a. Mandate

The Committee is a body of independent experts that monitors the implementation of the rights provided for under **the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** by States parties and examines communications from individuals. The Committee was established pursuant to ECOSOC Resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985 to carry out the functions set out in particular in articles 21 and 22 of **the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**. Committee members are elected by ECOSOC for a term of **four years**.

##### b. Sessions

The Committee currently holds three sessions a year (in February/March; June and September/October respectively). Members of the Committee are expected to participate for the entire sessions.

##### c. Languages

During Committee sessions, interpretation is provided in the following languages: **English, French and Spanish**. These are currently working languages of the Committee are: "Working languages" refers to those languages in which the internal working documents (mostly draft versions of text to be adopted) are made available to the Committee.

The official languages of the United Nations are: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. "Official languages" refers to those languages in which its official documentation is published. The working languages of the United Nations Secretariat in Geneva are English and French. Day-to-day communication with members takes place in English and French, and depending on the language capacity of the available staff, also in Spanish. In view of the growing constraints on the UN translation services, the Committee is increasingly confronting a situation of

having to undertake its work without the working language versions of documents.

d. Expertise

In accordance with the **ECOSOC Resolution 1985/17**, experts shall be with recognized competence in the field of human rights, serving in their personal capacity. General Assembly resolution 68/268 of April 2014 encourages States parties to nominate experts of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field of human rights, in particular in the field covered by the relevant treaty (paragraph 10).

2. The work of Committee Members

a. Activities within the formal work programme of the Committee

Members of treaty bodies participate in all aspects of the work of a particular treaty body, bringing their valuable expertise and experience. Most treaty bodies consider State party reports, many also consider individual communications, conduct inquiries or visits, consider urgent actions – all depending on the specific mandate of the particular treaty body. Treaty bodies often also prepare general comments and statements, as well as organize discussion days on particular themes.

Official meeting time varies from three weeks to three months per year and meetings take place in Geneva. In between sessions, communication between members and with the secretariat or other partners is conducted through e-mail. Members are expected to engage actively in all aspects of the work of the treaty body, to prepare for the dialogues with delegations of States parties, to provide drafts texts and/or written comments on drafts, as well as to participate in other activities of the treaty body.

During the sessions, members of treaty bodies have challenging workloads, which may extend beyond the formal schedule of the session, such as informal meetings related to the State party reviews. In addition to the formal meeting hours with simultaneous interpretation in working languages, a number of informal briefings are usually organized for the members in the margins of the session, in one language only. In order to prepare for the session, members of treaty bodies may need to do a great deal of analytical and preparatory work prior to the session.

Information submitted by State parties as well as from a variety of civil society and United Nations partners is available to the experts in advance of the session in electronic format. It should be noted that the material is not as a rule available in all working languages of the treaty bodies in a timely manner. The UN is increasingly moving towards “paper-smart” meetings, and use of hard copies is being reduced or eliminated.

In addition to the monitoring function of the treaty body, members will have the opportunity to discuss the improvement of working methods of the treaty body and also be invited to contribute to broader discussions on the strengthening of the treaty body system. The Chairpersons of the treaty bodies further meet once a year to discuss issues of common concern and the harmonization of treaty body working methods. Members are expected to contribute to the more effective and



efficient functioning of their treaty bodies by streamlining and harmonizing the working methods.

Members of treaty bodies are also encouraged to conduct paperless green sessions by using their laptop computers and the extranet of their treaty bodies.

b. Other Activities of the Committee

Members of the Committee may, depending on a variety of factors, be called upon to represent the Committee in official events that fall outside the scope of its normal work undertaken at its regular sessions as described above. Such activities may include training or awareness-raising activities on the Convention and the Committee at the national, regional or international levels, or other speaking engagements. Unless there is a specific allocation under the regular budget, there is no budget allocated to the Committee for activities outside its regular sessions.

3. Status, Conduct and Accountability of Treaty Body experts

Committee members are experts performing missions for the United Nations in accordance with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. The independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies requires that they serve in their personal capacity.

Section 22 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations establishes the detailed privileges and immunities accorded to experts on mission which are deemed necessary for the independent exercise of their functions during the period of their mission, which also includes travel time. The rationale for such privileges and immunities is to ensure that experts are free from any interference during their missions. It is important to note that privileges and immunities are granted to experts on mission in the interests of the Organisation and not for the personal benefit of the experts on mission.

As indicated in the Addis Ababa Guidelines, adopted at the 24<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of chairpersons of the treaty bodies, endorsed by most treaty bodies as self-regulatory guidelines, and noted in General Assembly resolution 68/268 on treaty body strengthening (paragraph 36), members of treaty bodies have the responsibility to regulate their acts and behaviours in accordance with the rules of procedures of each treaty body and the Addis Ababa Guidelines.

Standards of conduct and accountability for experts on mission can be found in Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2002/9 entitled "Regulations Governing the Status, Basic Rights and Duties of Officials other than Secretariat Officials, and Experts on Mission" (the Regulations). The Regulations form part of the terms of appointment of treaty body experts and cover issues relating to independence, conduct expected of a treaty body expert, including the prohibition of any form of discrimination or harassment, including sexual harassment, as well as physical or verbal abuse at the workplace or in connection with work, as well as accountability to the United Nations.

OHCHR supports the work of the human rights treaty bodies through the Human Rights Treaties Division (HRTD). Staff members of HRTD follow the reporting lines of their supervisors under the

supervision of Chiefs of Sections and overall responsibilities of Director of HRTD. Working relations between staff members of OHCHR and the members of treaty bodies are based on mutual respect. One of HRTD's main responsibilities is to prepare, run and follow up treaty body sessions and thereby staff members assist treaty bodies to discharge their mandates. For specific tasks undertaken by members of treaty bodies, members may request individual support from staff members and, in such case, requests should be channelled through treaty body secretaries.

#### 4. The entitlements of Committee Members

##### a. Travel to Geneva

The United Nations provides for the members of the human rights treaty bodies to travel to Geneva for their regular sessions. In accordance with the United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations and the United Nations Travel Regulations, the flights of treaty body members are arranged on the basis of a round-trip air ticket by the class immediately below first class (normally business class) via the most economical air fare and the most direct route. If a member requests a personal itinerary that is different from the officially authorized route, s/he will be required to pay the additional costs that it entails. Travel by other means than airplane may be accommodated, subject to United Nations Travel Regulations in the matter.

##### b. Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

Membership in the treaty bodies is an unpaid, voluntary service to the United Nations. The United Nations provides, however, an elevated daily subsistence allowance (DSA) to treaty body members. The DSA is meant to cover the costs of accommodation, meals, local transportation, telephone costs, and other incidentals for the duration of the sessions in Geneva. Members are responsible for making their own accommodation and local transportation arrangements.

#### 5. Medical insurance

All experts are responsible for providing for their own medical and life insurance. The United Nations does not provide for medical insurance or reimburse medical expenses. Experts are, however, covered for any "service-incurred" accidents that may arise as a function of their participation in official meetings or missions as indicated by the Secretary-General's Bulletin on "Rules governing compensation to members of Commissions, Committees or similar bodies in the event of death, injury or illness attributable to service with the United Nations" (ST/SGB/103/Rev.1).

Annex V

CURRICULUM VITAE OF.....

(Kindly note that the maximum limit is 1 and a half pages)

NAME

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH

NATIONALITY

ADDRESS

Professional  
Private

TEL

Professional  
Private

FAX

Professional  
Private

E-MAIL

Professional  
Private

WORKING LANGUAGES

EDUCATION

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

CURRENT POSITION(S)

PUBLICATIONS (IF ANY)