



Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

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Meeting of the States parties

Ninth meeting

Geneva, 20 October 2022

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Election, in accordance with articles 7 and 9 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, of 12 members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2022

Election of 13 members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. In accordance with articles 7 and 9 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the ninth meeting of the States parties to the Optional Protocol will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 20 October 2022, for the purpose of electing 13 members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2022.
2. In accordance with the procedure set out in article 6 (3) of the Optional Protocol, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 18 May 2022, invited the States parties to submit their nominations for the election of 13 members of the Subcommittee by 18 August 2022. The curricula vitae of the 16 candidates received by that deadline are included in document [CAT/OP/SP/20](#).
3. Annexed to the present note is the curriculum vitae, as received by the secretariat, of the candidate whose nomination was received after 18 August 2022.

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>
María Luisa Romero	Panama



Annex

Curriculum vitae*

[Original: Spanish]

Last names and first name:

María Luisa Romero Pinto

Place and date of birth:

Panama City, Panama. 23 July 1981

Working languages:

Spanish and English. Basic knowledge of French.

Professional background:

International human rights consultant (2013–2014, 2019–2022); Minister of the Interior and Deputy Minister of the Interior of Panama (2014–2018); litigator at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, New York (2010–2013); lawyer at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Costa Rica (2008–2009), trainee at the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania (2006); and diplomatic attaché at the Embassy of Panama in the United States (2004–2005)

Educational background:

Juris Doctor (law), cum laude, Harvard University (2008); Bachelor's degree in government and Latin American studies, magna cum laude, Harvard University (2004)

Current position/function:

Human rights consultant; United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and head of the regional team on Europe; Director of the Board of the Panamanian chapter of Transparency International

Main professional activities:

Lawyer and specialist in human rights with a career focus on preventing torture and promoting prison reform and social reintegration in Panama and beyond, and a record of service in academia, civil society and government. Recently led a research project on the use of force in Latin America and, during the pandemic, published a policy paper for States in the region on COVID-19 in prisons. Served as Minister of the Interior and Deputy Minister of the Interior of Panama, positions which involved matters related to juvenile justice, the prison system, refugees and indigenous peoples. Carried out reforms to make the prison system more humane, safer and more transparent; successfully pushed through legislation establishing prison service careers, opening the prison system to civil society and improving rehabilitation programmes. My work was also key to the establishment by law of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture in 2017.

Other main activities relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee:

My work in the field of human rights began at the International Human Rights Clinics at Harvard and Stanford Universities, with a focus on Central America. As a consultant, I work on issues including torture prevention, judicial independence, use of force and gender equity. I have advised on anti-corruption and human rights issues. At the Inter-American Court, I was one of the main contributors to a landmark judgment that addressed violence against women and femicide; as a guest lecturer at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, I

* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing.

currently teach women working in the public service how to conduct negotiations. My experience has made it possible for me to work with a diverse array of people, including academics, diplomats, politicians, human rights activists, police officers, prison guards and victims of torture. Panamanian civil society honoured me for my activism in defence of the rights of persons deprived of liberty.

Most recent publications in the field:

Uso de la fuerza en la protesta social (Konrad Adenauer, Oct. 2022); *The Covid-19 Pandemic and Prison Policy in Latin America* (Inter-American Dialogue 2021); *Los muros no detienen las pandemias* (CEJIL 2020 blog); opinion pieces in *La Prensa* (Panama, 2008–2017); *La Crisis en Panamá Continúa: ¿Hacia un Sistema Penitenciario que Respete los Derechos Humanos?* (Stanford Law School, 2013); “*Del Portón Para Acá Se Acaban Los Derechos Humanos*”: *Injusticia y Desigualdad en las Cárceles Panameñas* (Harvard Law School 2008)
