

Report of the Consultative Group to the President of the Human Rights Council relating to the vacancies of mandate holders to be appointed at the forty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council

Mandates on Afghanistan, arbitrary detention, Burundi, climate change and the occupied Palestinian territories

24 January 2022

I. Background

1. In paragraphs 47 and 49 of the annex to its resolution 5/1, the Human Rights Council decided to establish a Consultative Group comprised of Permanent Representatives appointed by Regional Groups and serving in their personal capacity. The Consultative Group is mandated by the Council to propose to the President a list of candidates who possess the highest qualifications for the mandate in question and meet the general criteria and particular requirements. Recommendations to the President of the Human Rights Council are required to be made public and substantiated pursuant to paragraph 50 of the annex to resolution 5/1.

2. The members of the Consultative Group for the selection of the mandate holders to be appointed at the forty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council are: His Excellency Mr. Joaquín Alexander Maza Martelli (El Salvador), His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Faisal Muhamad (Malaysia), His Excellency Mr. Mxolisi Nkosi (South Africa)¹ and Ms. Tamara Mawhinney (Canada)². The member of the Group from Eastern European States is yet to be nominated. The working cycle of the current Consultative Group commenced on 1 April 2021 and will end on 31 March 2022, pursuant to paragraph 1(b) of Council decision 30/115. The Group held its initial organizational meeting on 1 April 2021.

3. A total of 11 vacancies of special procedure mandate holders are to be filled at the Council's forty-ninth session as follows (listed in alphabetical order):

- 1. Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), member from Central and Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia (Human Rights Council resolution 33/25)**
- 2. Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), member from Central and South America, and the Caribbean (Human Rights Council resolution 33/25)**
- 3. Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), member from the Pacific (Human Rights Council resolution 33/25)**
- 4. Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change (Human Rights Council resolution 48/14)**
- 5. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (Human Rights Council resolution 48/1)**
- 6. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi (Human Rights Council resolution 48/16)**

¹ Pursuant to the notes verbales, dated respectively 11 June and 14 October 2021, from Cameroon in its capacity as the coordinator of the Group of African States, H.E. Mr. Mxolisi Nkosi (South Africa) has replaced H.E. Mr. Makaila Ahmad (Chad) in the Consultative Group for the remainder of the current term, i.e., until 31 March 2022.

² The Group of Western European and other States (WEOG) initially nominated H.E. Ms. Leslie Norton (Canada) to serve in the Consultative Group for the entire cycle. Subsequently, the Regional Group decided to replace the original nominee with Ms. Tamara Mawhinney (Canada).

7. **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/2A and Human Rights Council resolution 5/1)**
8. **Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, member from Western European and other States (Human Rights Council resolution 42/22)**
9. **Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, member from Asia-Pacific States (Human Rights Council resolution 45/3)**
10. **Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, member from Asia-Pacific States (Human Rights Council resolution 44/15)**
11. **Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, member from Latin American and Caribbean States (Human Rights Council resolution 42/9)**

4. The vacancies number 4, 5 and 6 – those of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi – are for three new mandates which the Human Rights Council decided to establish through its resolutions adopted at its forty-eighth session. The vacancy number 11 above – that of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, member from Latin American and Caribbean States – was not initially foreseen and arose due to the resignation of the mandate holder, Ms. Lilian Bobsa, effective 30 November 2021.

5. The present report contains the list of recommended candidates proposed by the Consultative Group to the President of the Council for the following five mandates (listed in alphabetical order):

1. **Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change (Human Rights Council resolution 48/14)**
2. **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (Human Rights Council resolution 48/1)**
3. **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi (Human Rights Council resolution 48/16)**
4. **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/2A and Human Rights Council resolution 5/1)**
5. **Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, member from Western European and other States (Human Rights Council resolution 42/22)**

6. The recommendations of the Consultative Group in relation to the remaining vacancies will be contained in an addendum to the Group's report (forthcoming as a separate document):

6. **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), member from Central and Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia (Human Rights Council resolution 33/25)**
7. **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), member from Central and South America, and the Caribbean (Human Rights Council resolution 33/25)**

8. **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), member from the Pacific (Human Rights Council resolution 33/25)**
9. **Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, member from Asia-Pacific States (Human Rights Council resolution 45/3)**
10. **Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, member from Asia-Pacific States (Human Rights Council resolution 44/15)**
11. **Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, member from Latin American and Caribbean States (Human Rights Council resolution 42/9)**

7. The Consultative Group has decided to present its recommendations relating to the above-mentioned mandates number 6 to 11 in an addendum to its report due to the high number of vacancies of mandate holders resulting from the creation of three new mandates and the resignation of one mandate holder. The Consultative Group informed the President of the Human Rights Council of its decision in a letter dated 13 January 2022.

8. In its virtual organizational meeting of 1 April 2021, the Consultative Group decided that the chairing function for the interview and selection process for the entire period of 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 would be equally shared among its members through a rotation. Initially, the Group agreed on the chairing arrangements only for the seven mandates to be filled at the forty-seventh session. The Group decided to divide equally the chairing of the interviews for the mandates among the current four Consultative Group members, by alphabetical order of the mandates and of the members' last names, with the unforeseen vacancy of the Independent Expert on foreign debt taken as last in view of the later application deadline and interview dates. It is understood that such an arrangement is subject to adjustment upon the future nomination of the Consultative Group member from the Group of Eastern European States. The chairing plan was then updated when the Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein, in its capacity as the regional coordinator, notified of a change of the WEOG member of the Consultative Group, with Ms. Tamara Mawhinney (Canada) replacing the previously nominated member, H.E. Ms. Leslie Norton (Canada) and when the Permanent Mission of Cameroon, in its capacity as the regional coordinator, notified that H.E. Mr. Mxolisi Nkosi (South Africa) would have replaced H.E. Mr. Makaila Ahmad (Chad) in the Consultative Group for the remainder of the current term, i.e., until 31 March 2022. The Consultative Group subsequently agreed on the chairing plan for appointments at the forty-ninth session following the same rotation principle, with an adjustment based on a recusal of two members, in accordance with paragraph 13 of President's statement PRST OS/14/2 on the methods of work of the Consultative Group of the Human Rights Council. The chairing arrangements for the specific mandates under consideration are noted below under each respective mandate.

II. Process

9. The application period for the submission of applications opened on 14 October 2021 for the following five mandates covered in this report: for Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, member from Western European and other States. The call for applications closed on 25 November 2021 (12 noon Geneva time) for the following three mandates: Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan; and Working

Group on Arbitrary Detention, member from Western European and other States. Due to the initially limited number of applications received, the application period was extended until 2 December 2021 for the following two mandates: Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi and Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

10. The Consultative Group considered 68 individual applications from 64 eligible candidates³ submitted for the aforementioned first five vacancies in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of Human Rights Council resolution 16/21. The applications of the eligible candidates were made public on the designated web page⁴ of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as provided for in paragraph 22 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 and paragraph 26 of President's statement PRST OS/14/2 (see annex I of this report).

11. The Consultative Group held 10 formal meetings on 16 December 2021 and on 11 to 14 and 21 January 2022 to consider and interview candidates for the aforementioned first five vacancies. This included two meetings with interpretation. All meetings were virtual due to the current restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

12. In accordance with paragraph 34 of President's statement PRST OS/14/2, each member of the Consultative Group individually ranked the most qualified candidates for each vacancy drawing on the written applications received, reflecting on their stated qualifications, relevant experience, expertise, independence, impartiality, personal integrity, objectivity, availability and motivation in compliance with relevant provisions of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, decision 6/102, resolution 16/21, President's statement PRST OS/14/2 and also Council resolutions relating to the specific mandates under consideration. On the basis of the list of ranked candidates and after consideration of all aforementioned elements, the Group had a discussion and established a shortlist of candidates to be interviewed for each mandate.

13. The members of the Consultative Group took into full consideration the technical and objective requirements as stipulated in paragraphs 39-41, 44-46, 48, 50-51 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, decision 6/102, paragraph 22 of resolution 16/21, paragraph 31 of President's statement PRST OS/14/2 and also Council resolutions relating to the specific mandates under consideration.

14. As per paragraph 51 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 33 of President's statement PRST OS/14/2, the Consultative Group took note of the perspectives offered by stakeholders including current or outgoing mandate holders in determining the necessary expertise, experience, skills and other relevant requirements for the mandates in question.⁵

15. The Consultative Group gave due consideration to gender balance, equitable geographic representation, as well as representation of different legal systems as stipulated in paragraph 40 of Council resolution 5/1 and in paragraphs 31 and 48 of President's statement PRST OS/14/2.

16. In connection with the aforementioned, the Consultative Group affirmed its commitment to ensuring that the most qualified candidates are recommended to the positions under consideration, that the process of selection is objective and transparent, ensures equal treatment of all candidates, and that the recommendations to the President are public and substantiated pursuant to Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21 and President's statement PRST OS/14/2.

³ Several candidates submitted applications for more than one mandate in this selection round.

⁴ See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC49.aspx>.

⁵ As per paragraph 51 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1. Letters from the Chair of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures to the Consultative Group on the selection process of special procedure mandate holders (dated 9 November 2021 and 7 January 2022, both available on <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx>) and from Amnesty International (dated 2 December 2021).

17. In accordance with paragraph 13 of President's statement PRST OS/14/2, Ms. Tamara Mawhinney (Canada) recused herself from participating in the shortlisting, interviews, deliberation and decision-making process of the candidates to be interviewed for the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, member from Western European and other States, in view of the fact that a candidate from Canada was under consideration. H.E. Mr. Mxolisi Nkosi (South Africa) recused himself from participating in the shortlisting, interviews, deliberation and decision-making process of the candidates to be interviewed for the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, in view of the fact that a candidate from South Africa was under consideration.

18. The Consultative Group adhered to paragraph 14 of President's statement PRST OS/14/2 which provides that the members of the Consultative Group, in the event that they have been approached by any Member State, organization or individual with regard to the application of a candidate, shall inform the other members in order to ensure maximum transparency.

19. In accordance with paragraphs 44 and 46 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraphs 35 to 38 of President's statement PRST OS/14/2, the Consultative Group sought to address consistently the observance of the principle of non-accumulation of human rights functions and the potential for conflict of interest of all candidates holding decision-making positions in Government or in any other organization or entity. These issues were clarified during interviews to ensure, inter alia, that if appointed, the candidate should state what steps he or she would be prepared to take with regard to any functions or duties that may give rise to an accumulation of human rights functions and/or any potential conflict of interest. When necessary, further clarifications were requested in writing.

20. The Group held a total of 23 interviews with 23 shortlisted candidates for the aforementioned first five mandates (see annex II of this report for the alphabetical list of interviewees per mandate). These interviews occurred from 11 to 14 January and on 21 January 2022, pursuant to paragraph 22 (c) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21. Each candidate was asked similar questions based on the relevant provisions of Council resolution 5/1, decision 6/102, resolution 16/21, President's statement PRST OS/14/2 and Council resolutions relating to the specific mandates under consideration.

21. Shortlisted candidates were able to request in advance and make use of interpretation in one of the six official languages of the United Nations during their interviews, pursuant to the President's statements PRST 29/1 and PRST OS/14/2. Fluency in one of the two working languages of the United Nations was also assessed by the members of the Consultative Group for all candidates.

22. The Consultative Group carried out interviews by video calls through the platform Webex, and through the platform Zoom when the interviewees requested interpretation.

23. The decisions of the Consultative Group were taken by consensus.

III. Candidates proposed by the Consultative Group to the President for the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change

24. The meetings held by the Consultative Group in relation to this mandate were chaired by H.E. Mr. Ahmad Faisal Muhamad (Malaysia). There were 26 eligible candidates for this vacancy. Of the six candidates interviewed, the Consultative Group decided to recommend the following two candidates as best qualified to fulfil the mandate, ranking them in the order of preference below.

1. Ian FRY (M) (Tuvalu)

2. Astrid PUENTES RIAÑO (F) (Mexico)

25. **Ian Fry** is currently senior lecturer at the Australian National University of Canberra, where he teaches International Environmental Policy and Environmental Policy. He worked as Ambassador for Climate Change and Environment for the Government of Tuvalu coordinating, on behalf of the Least Developed Countries, the negotiations of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular its article 8. Previously he had worked for the Government of Tuvalu also as Climate Change and Environment Officer. He published on climate change and its impact in particular on the Pacific region. Mr. Fry holds a Bachelor of Applied Science from the University of Canberra, a Master of Environmental Studies from Macquarie University, a Graduate Diploma in International Law and a Master of Environmental Law from the Australian National University, as well as a PhD in Environmental Studies from the same university in Australia. The Consultative Group noted the candidate's engagement, solid expertise, pragmatism and vision in addressing the challenges of the mandate, in particular the capacity to contextualize them in the human rights framework. It also appreciated his long experience in intergovernmental negotiations within the United Nations system.

26. **Astrid Puentes Riaño** is an independent consultant and is currently working at the American University Washington Law School, where she authors the moot court hypothetical case on climate change and human rights. She taught a module on Climate Litigation at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. She worked as Co-Executive director of AIDA (Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente) for 18 years. She published extensively on environmental issues and climate litigation. Ms. Puentes Riaño holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Los Andres in Colombia, a Master in Environmental Law from the University of the Basque Country in Spain, and a Master in Comparative Law from the University of Florida in the United States of America. The Consultative Group noted the candidate's knowledge of, and expertise in, the subject and her ability to identify the issue of climate change as a crosscutting issue. It also noted her knowledge of the United Nations system.

IV. Candidates proposed by the Consultative Group to the President for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan

27. The meetings held by the Consultative Group in relation to this mandate were chaired by H.E. Mr. Mxolisi Nkosi (South Africa). There were 14 eligible candidates for this vacancy. Of the five candidates interviewed, the Consultative Group decided to recommend the following three candidates as best qualified to fulfil the mandate, ranking them in the order of preference below.

1. Richard BENNETT (M) (New Zealand)

2. Karima BENNOUNE (F) (United States of America)

3. Leila ALIKARAMI (F) (Islamic Republic of Iran)

28. **Richard Bennett** is currently an independent consultant. He has 30 years of working experience in conflict and post-conflict settings and in transitional justice in Afghanistan, Libya, Nepal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. He held several senior positions such as Principal Human Rights Officer at the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), consultant for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Director of the Asia-Pacific Programme and other roles in Amnesty International, Director of Human Rights at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Chief of Staff of the Secretary-General's Panel

of Experts on Sri Lanka, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal and Deputy-Director of the United Nations Mission in Timor-Leste. Mr. Bennett lived and worked in Afghanistan in different capacities and negotiated in the past with the Taliban de facto authorities. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in social anthropology both obtained from the University of Auckland in New Zealand. The Consultative Group was impressed by the candidate's knowledge and experience of the country and its context. The Consultative Group noted the candidate's varied working experience with governments, the United Nations system, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations. The Consultative Group also appreciated the candidate's clear vision for the mandate, focusing on the compliance with international standards. The candidate showed an excellent approach regarding negotiation and cooperation between the mandate and other stakeholders.

29. **Karima Bennoune** is Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan Law School and Professor of Law at the University of California, Davis, in the United States. Within the United Nations human rights system, she served as the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights from 2015 to 2021. She taught international law and human rights law at the Oxford University/George Washington University School of Law Summer Human Rights Programme in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and at the Rutgers University School of Law in the United States. She worked at the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) in Senegal and as legal advisor at Amnesty International in the United Kingdom and at Al Haq, Law in the Service of Man, in the West Bank. She has published extensively in the field of human rights and international law. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University, a Master of Arts in Middle Eastern and North African Studies from the University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School and a Juris Doctor in Law from the University of Michigan Law School, both in the United States. The Consultative Group noted her experience in the United Nations system and her willingness to engage constructively to implement the mandate through cooperation with all stakeholders.

30. **Leila Alikarami** is Executive Director at the non-governmental organization Centre for Supporters of Human Rights. She worked as consultant for the Nobel Women Initiative and EUROSIA in London and as a lawyer for the Shirin Ebadi law firm in Teheran. She has published extensively on matters related to women's rights. She holds a Bachelor in Law from the University of Tehran in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as a Master of Laws in Human Rights, Peace and Conflict Resolution and a PhD in Law both from the University of London in the United Kingdom. The Consultative Group noted her experience in international human rights law and Islamic law applied to the litigation of cases.

V. Candidates proposed by the Consultative Group to the President for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi

31. The meetings held by the Consultative Group in relation to this mandate were chaired by Ms. Tamara Mawhinney (Canada). There were seven eligible candidates for this vacancy. Of the four⁶ candidates interviewed, the Consultative Group decided to recommend the following three candidates as best qualified to fulfil the mandate, ranking them in the order of preference below.

1. Fortuné Gaetan ZONGO (M) (Burkina Faso)

2. Segun JEGEDE (M) (Nigeria)

⁶ The Consultative Group offered interviews to five candidates; Ms. Keita Bocoum withdrew her candidature on 20 January 2022.

3. Frédéric FOKA TAFFO (M) (Cameroon)

32. **Fortuné Gaetan Zongo** is a magistrate and the president of the court of appeal of Fada N'Gourma, Burkina Faso. He also served as a chamber president at the court of appeal of Ouagadougou. He previously worked as the Director General of the Department for the Protection and Defence of Human Rights at the Ministry for the Promotion of Human Rights of Burkina Faso, in which capacity he attended sessions of the Human Rights Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. He was also elected to the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, serving as its member between 2011 and 2014. Mr. Zongo holds a law degree and a Master of Laws from the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, an inter-university postgraduate diploma in fundamental rights from the University of Nantes in France, and a diploma of magistrate from the National School of Administration and Magistracy of Burkina Faso. The Consultative Group noted the candidate's skills relevant for the mandate, his legal expertise and experience, including in handling highly sensitive judicial cases, and his vision for the implementation of the mandate through cooperation with the concerned Government.

33. **Segun Jegede** is a lawyer and a part-time Special Prosecutor appointed by the Federal Government of Nigeria. He is also the founder and executive director of the non-governmental organization Legal Watch and Human Rights Initiative. Furthermore, Mr. Jegede provides consulting services to the International Labour Organization and the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria. He previously worked for 13 years at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, serving consecutively as investigator, legal analyst and prosecutor. He has published a book and articles analysing the work of the Tribunal, among other topics related to international law. Mr. Jegede holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Lagos, a post-graduate diploma in legal practice from the Nigerian Law School, and a Master of Laws from the University of South Africa. The Consultative Group noted the candidate's understanding of developments in the country and current dynamics in the region.

34. **Frédéric Foka Taffo** is a political affairs officer at the Delegation of the European Union to Cameroon. He previously worked as the executive director of the research centre A Priori, as well as a lecturer at the Catholic University of Central Africa, where he also served as the permanent secretary of the doctoral school. He has also collaborated with international non-governmental organizations on issues such as the rights of indigenous peoples and extractive industries and human rights. He has published several research books and articles on international criminal law and the African human rights system. Mr. Foka Taffo holds a Bachelor in Law from the University of Buea, a Master in Law from the Catholic University of Central Africa, a Master in Law from the University of Yaoundé II, and a PhD in Law, Human Rights and International Criminal Law from the Catholic University of Central Africa, all in Cameroon. Mr. Foka Taffo indicated that, if appointed special procedure mandate holder, he would relinquish his position to avoid any perceived or real conflict of interest. The Consultative Group noted his knowledge of the mandate and his willingness to engage in a constructive manner with the concerned Government.

VI. Candidates proposed by the Consultative Group to the President for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967

35. The meetings held by the Consultative Group in relation to this mandate were chaired by H.E. Mr. Joaquín Alexander Maza Martelli (El Salvador). There were six eligible candidates for this vacancy. Of the four candidates interviewed, the Consultative Group decided to recommend the

following three candidates as best qualified to fulfil the mandate, ranking them in the order of preference below.

1. Francesca P. ALBANESE (F) (Italy)

2. Michelle BURGIS-KASTHALA (F) (Australia)

3. Susan M. AKRAM (F) (United States of America)

36. **Francesca P. Albanese** is Senior Adviser on Migration, Refugees and Shattat and Coordinator of the Question of Palestine Program at the non-governmental organization Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) in Jordan. She is also non-resident Affiliate Scholar at the Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) of Georgetown University, non-resident professor at Bethlehem University and Birzeit University and non-resident teaching professor at University of Salento. She worked as Senior Technical Advisor (Protection) at Project Concern International and as Legal Officer (Access/Protection) with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Jerusalem, as Human Rights Officer at OHCHR in Geneva and was United Nations Fellow with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Rabat. She published extensively on the topic of the occupied Palestinian territories. Ms. Albanese holds a Bachelor in Law from the University of Pisa, a Master in International Development from the University of Salento, both in Italy, and a Master in International Human Rights Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London in the United Kingdom. She is a PhD candidate on refugee studies at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Ms. Albanese indicated that, if appointed special procedure mandate holder, she would relinquish her role of Senior Adviser at ARDD, should it give it rise to a conflict of interest. The Consultative Group noted her vision for implementing the mandate and her direct experience with a variety of stakeholders in the region.

37. **Michelle Burgis-Kasthala** is Senior Lecturer in Public International Law and Programme Director for the Masters of International Human Rights Law at the University of Edinburgh in the United Kingdom. She worked as Research Fellow at the Australian National University and was Visiting Fellow at Birzeit University in the West Bank and Lecturer in Middle East Studies at the University of St Andrews in the United Kingdom. She conducted ethnographic research in Ramallah and led fieldtrips to the West Bank and Israel. She published extensively on the occupied Palestinian territories and the issue of state-building. Ms. Burgis-Kasthala holds a Bachelor in Government and International Relations and a Master from the University of Sydney, and a PhD from the Australian National University, both in Australia. The Consultative Group noted her understanding and knowledge of the country over the time, including its latest developments, and her balanced approach to the mandate.

38. **Susan M. Akram** is Clinical Professor and Director of the International Human Rights Clinic at Boston University School of Law in the United States. She litigated refugee and immigration cases in United States courts. She submitted reports to treaty bodies and special procedures. She authored publications on international law, human rights, refugee and migration law. She holds a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University in the United States, a Masters in International Human Rights from the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom, a Bachelor degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan in the United States and a Diploma in International Human Rights from the Institut International des Droits de l'Homme in France. The Consultative Group noted her academic expertise and experience in the area of the mandate.

VII. Candidates proposed by the Consultative Group to the President for the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, member from Western European and other States

39. The meetings held by the Consultative Group in relation to this mandate were chaired by H.E. Mr. Ahmad Faisal Muhamad (Malaysia). There were 15 eligible candidates for this vacancy. Of the four candidates interviewed, the Consultative Group decided to recommend the following three candidates as best qualified to fulfil the mandate, ranking them in the order of preference below.

1. Matthew GILLETT (M) (New Zealand)

2. Bernard DUHAIME (M) (Canada)

3. Vincent PLOTON (M) (France)

40. **Matthew Gillett** is Senior Lecturer at the School of Law at the University of Essex in the United Kingdom, where he teaches human rights and co-leads the University's Digital Verification Unit that gathers open-source evidence of human rights violations. He is also one of the directors of the Peace and Justice Initiative, a network of international criminal law professionals working towards the universal implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. He worked as Senior Legal Officer at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). He was Prosecution Trial Lawyer and Appeal Counsel at the International Criminal Court and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. He worked as a Human Rights Officer with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). He has published extensively on human rights and international criminal law. Mr. Gillett holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science both from the University of Otago in New Zealand, a Master of Laws from the University of Michigan in the United States and a PhD in International Law from Leiden University in the Netherlands. The Consultative Group noted the candidate's vast experience and knowledge of the mandate. The candidate clearly identified the challenges relating to the implementation of the mandate and proposed an interesting vision for the further development of the mandate.

41. **Bernard Duhaime** is a professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Québec in Montréal (UQAM) in Canada where he previously founded and directed the University's International Clinic for the Defence of Human Rights. He is also visiting professor at the University Paris II. He was Associate Research Fellow at the Geneva Academy and visiting Fellow in Argentina, Canada, Italy and the United States. Within the United Nations human rights system, he was Member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances from 2014 to 2021 and also served as its Chair. His working experience spans from academia to international and regional organizations, and national human rights institutions. He published extensively on human rights law. Mr. Duhaime holds a Bachelor of Civil Law and a Bachelor of Laws from McGill University in Canada and a Master of Laws in International Human Rights Law from Notre Dame University in the United States. The Consultative Group noted the candidate's vast experience and knowledge of the mandate as well as his ability to engage with a wide network of stakeholders in the area of the mandate.

42. **Vincent Ploton** is director of development and treaty body advocacy at the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR). He worked at the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR Centre) and at the Association for the Prevention of Torture. Mr. Ploton holds a Master in Business Administration from the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce et Développement of Lyon in France and a Master of Science in Political Science from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London in the United Kingdom. Mr. Ploton indicated that, if appointed special procedure mandate holder, he would relinquish any activity that could give rise to any conflict of interest. The Consultative Group noted his experience in the area of the mandate related in particular to treaty bodies and non-governmental organizations.

*Annex I - List of eligible candidates by mandate⁷***Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change**

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Yvonne	AKI-SAWYERR	Sierra Leone	F
Sumudu	ATAPATTU	United States of America	F
Rebecca	BRATSPIES	United States of America	F
Sandra	CASSOTTA	Italy	F
Eeshan	CHATURVEDI	India	M
Ian	FRY	Tuvalu	M
Maria	GAVOUNELI	Greece	F
Erika	GEORGE	United States of America	F
Rodolfo	GODÍNEZ ROSALES	Mexico	M
Alexandra	HARRINGTON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	F
Tessa	KHAN	Australia	F
Helena	KOROŠEC	Slovenia	F
Viviana	KRSTICEVIC	Argentina	F
Cephas	LUMINA	Zambia	M
Nema	MILANINIA	United States of America	M
Kumi	NAIDOO	South Africa	M
Gervais	NZOA	Cameroon	M
Astrid	PUENTES RIAÑO	Mexico	F
Tikumporn	RODKHUNMUANG	Thailand	Non-binary
Sindra Devi	SHARMA	Fiji	F
Dhananjayan	SRISKANDARAJAH	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	M
Victoria Lucia	TAULI-CORPUZ	Philippines	F
Valmaine	TOKI	New Zealand	F
Christina	VOIGT	Germany	F
Laiakini	WAQANISAU	Fiji	M
Margaretha	WEWERINKE-SINGH	Netherlands	F

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Leila	ALIKARAMI	Islamic Republic of Iran	F
Richard	BENNETT	New Zealand	M

⁷ The list of mandates and of candidates is provided in alphabetical order.

Karima	BENNOUNE	United States of America	F
Kamala	CHANDRAKIRANA	Indonesia	F
Maurizio	CUSIMANO	Italy	M
Kerem	GÜLAY	Turkey	M
Segun	JEGEDE	Nigeria	M
T.	KUMAR	Sri Lanka	M
Nema	MILANINIA	United States of America	M
Kimberley Cy.	MOTLEY	United States of America	F
Marjan	NAHAVANDI	United States of America	F
Norah	NILAND	Ireland	F
Ahmed	SHAHEED	Maldives	M
Saman	ZIA-ZARIFI	United States of America	M

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Maurizio	CUSIMANO	Italy	M
Frédéric	FOKA TAFFO	Cameroon	M
Segun	JEGEDE	Nigeria	M
Marie Thérèse	KEITA BOCOUM ⁸	Côte d'Ivoire	F
Gerard	NSENGIYUMVA	Rwanda	M
Ekkehard	STRAUSS	Germany	M
Fortuné Gaetan	ZONGO	Burkina Faso	M

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Susan M.	AKRAM	United States of America	F
Francesca P.	ALBANESE	Italy	F
Michelle	BURGIS-KASTHALA	Australia	F
Muhammad Muzahidul	ISLAM	Bangladesh	M
Usha	NATARAJAN	Australia	F
Ralph	WILDE	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	M

⁸ On 20 January 2022, the candidate informed the Secretariat of her decision to withdraw her candidacy for this mandate.

Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, member from Western European and other States

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Nicolas	BRATZA	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	M
Alessio	BRUNI	Italy	M
John	CERONE	United States of America	M
Anna	CROWE	New Zealand	F
Maurizio	CUSIMANO	Italy	M
Bernard	DUHAIME	Canada	M
Steven	GALLIVER-ANDREW	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	M
Jared	GENSER	United States of America	M
Matthew	GILLETT	New Zealand	M
Alex	NEVE	Canada	M
Vincent	PLOTON	France	M
René	PROVOST	Canada	M
Diego	RODRIGUEZ-PINZON	United States of America	M
Nick	STANAGE	Ireland	M
Oliver	WINDRIDGE	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	M

Annex II – List of shortlisted candidates interviewed by the Consultative Group⁹

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Ian	FRY	Tuvalu	M
Erika	GEORGE	United States of America	F
Kumi	NAIDOO	South Africa	M
Astrid	PUENTES RIAÑO	Mexico	F
Tikumporn	RODKHUNMUANG	Thailand	Non-binary
Margaretha	WEWERINKE-SINGH	Netherlands	F

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Leila	ALIKARAMI	Islamic Republic of Iran	F
Richard	BENNETT	New Zealand	M
Karima	BENNOUNE	United States of America	F
Kamala	CHANDRAKIRANA	Indonesia	F
Kimberley Cy.	MOTLEY	United States of America	F

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi¹⁰

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Segun	JEGEDE	Nigeria	M
Frédéric	FOKA TAFFO	Cameroon	M
Ekkehard	STRAUSS	Germany	M
Fortuné Gaetan	ZONGO	Burkina Faso	M

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Susan M.	AKRAM	United States of America	F
Francesca P.	ALBANESE	Italy	F
Michelle	BURGIS-KASTHALA	Australia	F

⁹ The list of mandates and of candidates is provided in alphabetical order.

¹⁰ Ms. Marie Thérèse Keita Bocoum was initially shortlisted for an interview. On 20 January 2022, she informed the Secretariat of her decision to withdraw her candidacy for this mandate.

Usha	NATARAJAN	Australia	F
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Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, member from Western European and other States

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Maurizio	CUSIMANO	Italy	M
Bernard	DUHAIME	Canada	M
Matthew	GILLETT	New Zealand	M
Vincent	PLOTON	France	M
