

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-eighth session of the Human Rights Council

Addendum: Mandate on people of African descent

6 September 2021

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 mandate holders to be appointed at the forty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council are: His Excellency Mr. Makaila Ahmad (Chad)¹, His Excellency Mr. Joaquín Alexander Maza Martelli (El Salvador), His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Faisal Muhamad (Malaysia) 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 three vacancies of special procedure mandate holders are to be filled at the Council's forty-eighth session as follows (listed in alphabetical order):

- 1. Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (HRC resolution 46/9)**
- 2. Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Latin American and Caribbean States (HRC resolution 45/24)**
- 3. Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, member from Latin American and Caribbean States (HRC resolution 44/15)**

4. Vacancy number 2 above – that of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Latin American and Caribbean States – was not initially foreseen and arose due to the resignation of the current mandate holder, Mr. Ahmed Reid (Jamaica), effective 4 June 2021.

5. The Consultative Group decided to present its report with recommendations relating to this unforeseen vacancy in an addendum to its report due to the very short time available for launching the call for applications.

¹ The Coordinator of Human Rights Issues for the Group of African States informed the Secretariat, by note verbale dated 11 June 2021, that H.E. Mr. Mxolisi Nkosi, Permanent Representative of South Africa, would replace H.E. Mr. Makaila Ahmad during the temporary unavailability of the latter.

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).

6. Accordingly, on 16 August 2021, the Consultative Group presented its main report³ to the President of the Human Rights Council with its list of candidates recommended to the President for the following two mandates:

- 1. Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (HRC resolution 46/9)**
- 2. Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, member from Latin American and Caribbean States (HRC resolution 44/15)**

7. The present addendum to the report, which should be read in conjunction with the main report of the Consultative Group dated 16 August 2021, contains the recommendations of the Consultative Group in relation to the following unforeseen mandate:

- 1. Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Latin American and Caribbean States (HRC resolution 45/24)**

II. Process

8. The application period for the submission of applications for the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Latin American and Caribbean States opened on 28 June and closed on 10 August 2021 (12 noon Geneva time).

9. The Consultative Group considered 13 individual applications from 13 eligible candidates submitted for the aforementioned vacancy 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).

10. The Consultative Group followed the same methodology as for the two vacancies covered in its main report dated 16 August 2021. Reference is made to paragraphs 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19.

11. The Consultative Group held one virtual and two hybrid formal meetings on 26 August and 1 and 2 September 2021 to consider and interview candidates for the aforementioned vacancy. One of the meetings was with interpretation. H.E. Mr. Maza Martelli participated neither in the shortlisting for the mandate nor in the interviews for this mandate.

12. The Group held a total of six interviews with six shortlisted candidates for the Working Group mandate (see annex II of this report for the alphabetical list of interviewees). These interviews occurred on 1 and 2 September 2021, 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 resolution relating to the specific mandate under consideration.

13. The 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.

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

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/SP/CallApplications/HRC48/CG-REPORT-HRC48-to-President.pdf>.

⁴ See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC48.aspx>.

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

III. Candidates proposed by the Consultative Group to the President for the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Latin American and Caribbean States

16. The meetings held by the Consultative Group in relation to this mandate were chaired by Ms. Tamara Mawhinney (Canada). There were 13 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.

1. Barbara G. REYNOLDS (F) Guyana

2. Ana Paula BARRETO (F) Brazil

17. **Barbara G. Reynolds** is a consultant on human rights, children's rights, women's rights and gender. She served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana; as Head of Education at Save the Children UK; and between 1997 and 2012 worked with progressive responsibilities for United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in different countries. She has made several presentations relating to the mandate of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, including for the International Decade for People of African Descent Assembly - Guyana (IDPADA-G), an umbrella organization of African Guyanese cultural, social and community organizations, dedicated to promoting and advancing the conditions of African-Descendants in Guyana. Ms. Reynolds holds a Doctorate in International Education from Columbia University, United States of America, and a Master's in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. She confirmed that, if she were to be appointed WGEPAD expert, she would relinquish her consultancies with various United Nations agencies, should a conflict of interest arise. The Consultative Group noted her knowledge and experience of the United Nations system, her excellent communication and cooperation skills, as well as her understanding of the current challenges faced by the mandate.

18. **Ana Paula Barreto** is the Director of Global Equity at National Birth Equity Collaborative, a non-governmental organization working on birth rights. She has worked as consultant for UNICEF and as Director of Programs of the non-governmental organization AfroResistance. She is a former United Nations Fellow for People of African Descent at OHCHR. Ms. Barreto holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs, Pontificia Universidade Catolica de Sao Paulo, Brazil, and a Master of Arts in International Affairs from The New School, United States of America. She confirmed that, if she were to be appointed WGEPAD expert, she would relinquish her activities, should a conflict of interest arise. The Consultative Group noted her experience and knowledge of, as well as personal commitment to, the mandate.

Annex I - List of eligible candidates by mandate⁵

Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Latin American and Caribbean States

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Ana Paula	BARRETO	Brazil	F
Maxine	CLARKE	Jamaica	F
Mauricio	COITIÑO	Uruguay	M
Natanael	DOS SANTOS	Brazil	M
Ana Lucia de los Milagros	MOSQUERA ROSADO	Peru	F
Pastor Elías	MURILLO MARTÍNEZ	Colombia	M
Madoda	NTAKA	Argentina	M
Angela Yesenia	OLAYA REQUENE	Colombia	F
Carlos	QUESADA	Costa Rica	M
Barbara G.	REYNOLDS	Guyana	F
Roberlaine	RIBEIRO JORGE	Brazil	M
Andrea	ROMAOLI GARCIA	Brazil	F
Olivia	SMITH	Barbados	F

Annex II – List of shortlisted candidates interviewed by the Consultative Group⁶

Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Latin American and Caribbean States

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Ana Paula	BARRETO	Brazil	F
Pastor Elías	MURILLO MARTÍNEZ	Colombia	M
Madoda	NTAKA	Argentina	M
Angela Yesenia	OLAYA REQUENE	Colombia	F
Carlos	QUESADA	Costa Rica	M
Barbara G.	REYNOLDS	Guyana	F

⁵ The list of candidates is provided in alphabetical order.

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